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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 52 • 25 December 1997

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years



Dr. Mitch Katz

Supes demand 'workable solution' for PWA grievances

by Cynthia Laird

After receiving an incomplete response from Interim Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz about Department of Public Health (DPH) clients whose services are suspended or restricted by agencies that receive city funds or those administered by the city — such as federal Ryan White CARE dollars — San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz told the B.A.R. that she will continue working with DPH to get more information and come up with a workable solution.

In early October, Supervisors Katz and Tom Ammiano sent a letter to Dr. Katz, requesting specific information on grievance procedures and other information. A copy of Dr. Katz's December 1 response obtained by the B.A.R. shows that while he answered some of the questions posed by the supervisors, others were not included, such as the number of people who have been suspended or restricted from services at contracting agencies both in the current fiscal year and in the last two fiscal years; the reasons for the suspensions; and the type of service the client was using.

The supervisor said she was "kind of surprised" that information wasn't in Dr. Katz's letter. "But," she added, "that information may not even be available — and what's more disconcerting is that it may well be that we don't get that information from these nonprofits."

"I'm going to be working with DPH to really flush out their responses," Supervisor Katz told the B.A.R. in an interview on December 16. "It's important that there are uniform, consistent grievance procedures. The bottom line is that the city and county has a responsibility to address public health services, and we fund them because they are so important."

The case of AIDS activist Michael
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Teens bash gay Native American Canadian tourist aboard Muni

by Mark Mardon

A 30-year-old Micmac Indian woman from a reservation in the remote bush country of Northern Ontario, visiting her lover in San Francisco for the holidays, has become one of the latest victims of gay-bashing aboard a Muni bus. The violent, nightmarish assault on Rosanne Ellen Gervais, by as many as 16 juveniles and two young adults, demonstrates why many lesbian and gay people hesitate to ride the city's bus system, fearing their sexual orientation and lifestyle make them targets for homophobes with narrow minds and short fuses.

According to the victim, the incident also underscored at least one Muni employee's hostility and un-cooperativeness, and police's disinclination to classify a homophobic assault as a hate crime.

The incident occurred on the afternoon of Friday, December 12, shortly after Gervais, a lesbian wearing a necklace with rainbow beads and carrying a pouch affixed with a pink triangle and gay pride logo, boarded the 30 Stockton bus near Chestnut and Laguna, in the Marina District. She was on her way to meet a friend, and the two of them planned to go to a holiday party.

Gervais said two groups of kids boarded with her: a more-or-less orderly line of schoolchildren, accompanied by two teachers, filed in through the front door just behind her, while a rowdy lot of street kids



Muni attack victim Rosanne Ellen Gervais: "They thought I was a dude in a dress."

took advantage of the driver's distraction to pry open the back door and climb aboard the rear of the bus, grabbing a free ride.

Soon, according to Gervais, the group in the rear lit up cigarettes and a joint, and took swigs from what appeared to be bottle of hard liquor concealed in a vinyl bag.

Gervais — dressed in Native American finery that including a feathered hat, a sacred medicine pouch hung from a cord around her neck, and a variety of stone, copper, and silver jewelry (in addition to her rainbow necklace) — found herself sardined among the pack, trying hard to ignore their shouting and roughhousing. But the blaring rhythm-and-bass of a boom box close to her ear was too much to bear, and she decided that rather than try to tolerate it, she'd abandon the bus. Unfortunately, that proved impossible, as the kids crowding the doorway

page 17 ►

LGADDA to present sixth gay Kwanzaa on Tuesday

by Cynthia Laird

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA), in association with the New Main Library's African-American and Gay and Lesbian Centers, will present its sixth annual Kwanzaa Holiday Celebration Tuesday, December 30 in the Koret Auditorium at the library. Admission to the 5 p.m. event is free, and the public is invited to attend.

Developed and initiated over 30 years ago by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, Kwanzaa is a spiritual, festive, and joyous African-American celebration of the oneness and goodness of life that has grown in popularity across the country as well as internationally. Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration that begins December 26, and is centered around seven principles (Nguzo Saba), with emphasis on unity and rededication to manifesting the principles in daily life.

Next week's program will include presentations by well-known Bay Area performers, including poets Marvin K. White and Darlene Hartway; storyteller extraordinaire Marijo; Carolyn King, with the African-

American Shakespeare Company; performance artist Elizabeth Summers; performance group Soyinka and Our Thing; vocalist Phillip Thomas; master drummer Kokoman; San Francisco's City of Refuge Choir; and the Reverend Carmella Patton of the East Bay Church of Religious Science.

LGADDA member Darien Kincaid, co-chair of the Kwanzaa event, said there will also be exhibits by local artists and community-based organizations.


In addition to observing Kwanzaa, LGADDA organizers hope the event, like previous celebrations, will increase the group's exposure and add new members to its roster. LGADDA was formed in January 1992 to give a political voice to the concerns and needs of lesbians and gays of African descent in the San Francisco Bay Area. It has also formed coalitions with other groups of mutual concern to overcome racism and promote economic and social justice. ▼

The New Main Library is located at Larkin and Grove streets, one block from the BART/Muni Civic Center Station. For more information, call (510) 532-5660.

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Bi man sues Home Depot after anti-gay slurs at Emeryville store

by Dennis Conkin

An Emeryville Home Depot customer who was subjected to anti-gay slurs and sexual harassment by store workers, as well as shoddy merchandise and unauthorized charges on his credit card, has filed a lawsuit against the Atlanta-based chain.

Michael Deuschel, a carpenter who is represented by attorney Geoff Kors of The Law Offices of Paul Wotman, says his troubles began after he ordered approximately \$8,000 worth of "good quality" merchandise from the East Bay Home Depot store between September and December 1995 to use in remodeling his new home, but was forced to return some shipments of goods that arrived in defective or damaged condition.

In February 1996, because of the high incidence of poor quality and damaged merchandise Deuschel received, Home Depot advised Deuschel to cancel the original orders and reorder better quality merchandise, so he returned most of the original orders for refund, placed new orders for upgraded merchandise, and paid an additional estimated \$2,500 for the upgrades.

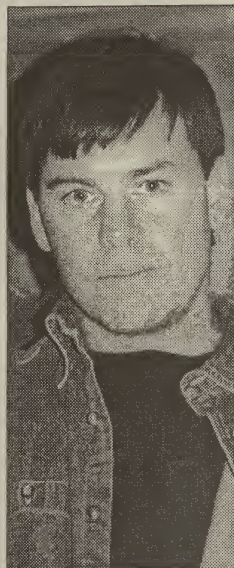
According to Deuschel's second amended complaint, filed in Alameda County Superior Court on December 5, Home Depot failed to deliver the merchandise, and after a series of credit transactions Deuschel ended up with an unauthorized debit on his MasterCard. The erroneous charge was finally resolved with the help of his bank, but not before more than six months had passed.

Deuschel's Superior Court complaint alleges he became a target for harassment because workers falsely assumed he was homosexual after a February 1996 incident, when Deuschel confronted Home Depot salesperson Jennifer Suzzlie for referring to female co-worker as a "licker," a slang reference to the employee's supposed lesbian sexual orientation. After explaining to Deuschel what the slur meant, Suzzlie then referred to a nearby male co-worker as "a fag." Deuschel was extremely offended, voiced his objection to the hate speech, and ended the transaction.

The lawsuit says that after the incident, Suzzlie and other employees began to treat him differently because of their perception of Deuschel as a homosexual. He is a bisexual man.

According to the complaint, Suzzlie later refused to serve Deuschel when he showed up for a scheduled appointment to order replacement merchandise. She allegedly denied that the appointment had been set up, and openly laughed at Deuschel with other employees.

Because the cabinets that Deuschel had initially ordered were defective, the store's manager, after a series of canceled appointments, also allegedly offered to replace them all with a better brand. Deuschel said the manager later reversed himself, saying a manufacturer's representative



Michael Deuschel

claimed the merchandise wouldn't be superior to the defective cabinets. The manufacturer's representative refuted the manager's claim, according to the lawsuit, and said, in fact, the cabinets would be superior to the initial brand.

Deuschel said the manager also told him that he should shop somewhere other than Home Depot because they couldn't serve his kind of customer — because they were insatiable.

The implication was that homosexuals are whimsical and difficult to satisfy, Deuschel said, and instead of dealing with a serious problem about defective merchandise, Home Depot employees made Deuschel's sexual orientation the issue.

"Here I was, spending \$10,000 in the store and running into merchandise problems, and rather than deal with it on the up-and-up, they resorted to defamation and abusive treatment, and attacked me around my perceived sexual orientation. That's what's weird," Deuschel said.

A Home Depot spokesman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that corporate policies concerning pending litigation precluded any comment on the lawsuit.

Aggravated PTSD

The harassment and maltreatment allegedly moved beyond words and efforts to discourage Deuschel's business, into assault and battery and sexual harassment, when an assistant manager saw Deuschel in the store one day in March 1996 as he was making an order for the replacement cabinets.

According to the lawsuit, assistant manager Cliff Coalderon allegedly came up to Deuschel and began commenting on a letter Deuschel had written to store management officials documenting his frustrating problems with the defective line of merchandise.

"He said something like, 'Wow, you're quite a letter-writer,' and then he put his arm around my

neck and said, 'What you need is just a good blow-job,'" Deuschel said.

The way Coalderon rolled his eyes as he made the comment made it clear that the statement was aimed at Deuschel because of his perceived sexual orientation. "It was abusive and demeaning. I was so shocked," Deuschel said. "In hindsight, it reagravated my post-traumatic stress disorder."

The incident was doubly traumatic because Deuschel was the victim of a 1992 anti-gay assault in which the perpetrator, who was later convicted, initiated the attack by approaching him in the same manner. In the attack, Deuschel suffered extensive injuries that required surgery.

After the March 1996 incident, Deuschel met with the store manager again to try to resolve the problem, and finally arrived at a solution in which the store would order the upgraded merchandise at no cost, and he would receive a financial compensation of the difference in value in the form of merchandise equivalent: several additional cabinets.

Deuschel thought the problem was resolved, but it wasn't.

When the final paperwork came, Home Depot had omitted two key pieces of the order for which he had paid \$500, a kitchen sink base and a bathroom vanity, and had charged Deuschel an additional \$500 for the other replacement merchandise ordered.

Deuschel returned to the store and complained to the salesman to fix the errors, but the salesman declined and suggested he get an attorney; however, after Deuschel left the store, the store manager made an additional unauthorized credit card credit to his account for \$250.

Deuschel contacted the Home Depot district manager in San Leandro about the situation and asked him to correct the unauthorized credit card activity, provide the omitted cabinets, and provide the rest of merchandise he had ordered but not yet received, and compensate him for the harm.

The store's corporate counsel contacted Deuschel, declining to remedy the situation, and Deuschel sued in April 1996. At the same time that Deuschel filed the lawsuit, he complained about the incident to his MasterCard issuer, and that bank conducted an investigation lasting more than six months.

According to the lawsuit, during the April-October 1996 investigation, Home Depot did not cooperate with or respond to the Formalized Billing Error Resolution Process, a federally and state-mandated credit dispute process.

Deuschel's bank charged back the unauthorized transactions, as well as the charges for the initial merchandise such as a refrigerator, washer, and dryer that Deuschel had ordered but never received, for a total reparation of about \$8,900.

Deuschel is suing for breach of contract, fraud, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, and violation of state credit billing dispute statutes.

No trial date has been set in the case. ▼

Vet fête



About three dozen gay vets joined in the Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post holiday party on Thursday, Dec. 18, at the War Memorial Building. A good time was reportedly had by all.

Hallinan to prosecute felony charges against gay pot grower

PWA says he didn't sell to 'healthy people'

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco District Attorney's Office is expected to file felony marijuana charges against Victor Thomas ("Tom") Evans, charging the gay man with cultivation and possession. Evans was arrested last September, but maintains he grew pot for his own medical use and sold it to local cannabis clubs. District Attorney Terence Hallinan, an outspoken proponent of Proposition 215, the medical marijuana law, initially criticized police for Evans's arrest, during which time officers seized approximately 30 pot plants and as much as \$17,000 in cash, according to Evans.

By Friday, December 19, however, authorities had changed their stance. District attorney spokesperson John Shanley said evidence taken during the September 23 arrest and search has led prosecutors to believe Evans, 36, was selling marijuana for profit.

Police said 41 marijuana plants and \$15,000 in cash were confiscated. Evans said he is "pretty upset" about the situation, and disputed the evidence seized from his Mt. Davidson-area home last fall. "Five of the plants were over two feet tall, the rest were all under a foot. The money they



Terence Hallinan

seized was the entire profit from a crop sold to Flower Therapy and Oakland one or two weeks before—and, in fact, over \$16,000 was taken. Every time they [police] count it [the money], it seems to go down."

Evans, who is living with AIDS, told the B.A.R. that as of Monday, December 22, he had not been formally charged, but his attorney, Randolph Daar, has been notified that the district attorney's office intends to file one count of cultivation and one count of possession for sale. Evans said he is not guilty of anything and will fight the case.

"I was selling marijuana exclusively to medical marijuana clubs—specifically, Flower Ther-

apy and the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club," said Evans. "I was growing it in my own home. I did not sell to any healthy people."

Immediately after Evans was arrested, Hallinan spoke to numerous reporters and was critical of the case, in particular the fact that police did not notify his office before obtaining the search warrant. Shanley said that Evans lives next door to a retired federal court judge who apparently tipped off authorities. Officers "had no way of knowing" that Evans is an AIDS patient, or that he is affiliated with medical marijuana clubs, Shanley said in September.

The district attorney's office decision to prosecute Evans comes on the heels of a state Appeals Court decision that medical marijuana clubs do not qualify as "primary caregivers." That decision has affected the San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club and its founder, Republican gubernatorial candidate Dennis Peron.

"This [Evans case] is about defining Proposition 215, rather than sending someone to jail," Shanley told the B.A.R. this week. "It did appear, based on the evidence, that he was selling for profit. He may be able to produce evidence that he was not. This is obviously going to be a hard case to sell to a jury."

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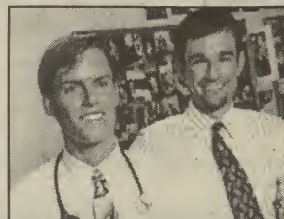
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Santa cruise



A happy Santa gets a lapful at the Cinch's Dec. 21 fundraiser for the GodFather Service Fund. Yuletide festivities – like drinking, eating, dancing, and cavorting under the mistletoe – were the order of the day at the Polk Street institution's party that lasted for several hours last Sunday.

Lesbian couple may sue 24-Hour Fitness over anti-gay scolding

by Jim Provenzano

Two San Francisco lesbians have complained to Community United Against Violence that they were harassed by an employee of the 24-Hour Fitness gym on Potrero Avenue and 16th Street last week.

Mikal Gilmore, 28, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that on Thursday, December 18 at about 5:30 p.m., she was standing in the lobby of the 24-Hour Fitness at 200 Potrero when she hugged her girlfriend, Aishe Berger.

According to Gilmore, Lorchia Owens, an employee of the fitness chain, yelled across the lobby, "Excuse me, I don't mean to be rude or anything, but you need to take that outside. I don't care, but our members don't wanna see that."

Another member walked by, in a hasty attempt at support, and said, "I don't care!"

"He was the only one," Gilmore told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "There were other employees standing around. No one said anything. We were standing waiting for a friend. We never kissed or anything. We looked like a couple standing around."

After Owens made her remark, Gilmore said she and her lover "were stunned. We were thinking about what we should do. I was so angry. We were just dumbfounded and shaking and in a daze. We said we needed to talk to the manager."

They were ushered into the general manager's office, where several staff members had gathered. It was obvious that Owens's remarks were being discussed.

"She just told me you were kissing," manager Vinnie Farrell said to Gilmore, who described his behavior as "very rushing, [he] tried to get us out of there."

Then, according to Gilmore, "He said, 'Why don't you write a letter, and we'll put it in her file?'"



Mikal Gilmore

After she went home, Gilmore called Farrell to inquire what he was going to do about it. "I said, 'I wanna give you the benefit of the doubt.' He said he would talk to her. He started to say things like, 'What do you want?' I told him that this is very upsetting."

Gilmore said that Farrell told her that Owens might get suspended for a couple of days.

Gilmore contacted representatives of Community United Against Violence, who are writing a letter of concern to the company.

"I want to join another gym. I feel bad. I can't go there anymore."

Aishe Berger, Gilmore's girlfriend, has been a member of 24-Hour Fitness for years. After the incident, she stayed at the gym, thinking that working out would calm her, but she felt very uncomfortable, eventually left, and has not returned since.

Embracing diversity

What bothers Gilmore is Owens's presumption that anyone would be upset by an innocuous display of affection. She mentioned the possibility of a straight

couple kissing in the lobby, and the rarity of anyone complaining about that. "The membership is queer there, too. I want everyone that's gay to know about this."

"I have a feeling it's just the staff," she added. "What's disturbing is that it is the staff, not just another member. It's disturbing that it happens."

24-Hour Fitness is a chain fitness company with 150 locations in 7 states. There are eight branches of the franchise in San Francisco.

The general manager of the 200 Potrero Street 24-Hour Fitness, Vinnie Farrell, said he is "not allowed to discuss internal matters with anyone from the outside." Bob Brooks, the regional manager for 24-Hour fitness, said, "I refuse to make any comment."

Elise Wellsord, a company spokesperson, said that "the allegations of what occurred are inconsistent with our company policy. We don't condone it. We really embrace diversity." As proof of this, she also added that as of January 1, the company will provide health coverage for domestic partners.

"We have counseled the employee involved," Wellsord said. "We also have periodic sensitivity training for all employees." When asked if Owens had been counseled, she did not know, but mentioned that some of 24-Hour Fitness' employees are lesbian and gay.

"We have made it very clear that this is not acceptable," Wellsord said. "As a company, we really do not tolerate discrimination. We want a comfortable work-out environment."

Gilmore, however, is not giving up. She is talking to an attorney to have the matter resolved. She also agreed that a kiss-in or hug-in would do wonders to sensitize the apparently homophobic environment of the facility.

"I don't just wanna quit and walk away," she said. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Merry Christmas, you're fired!

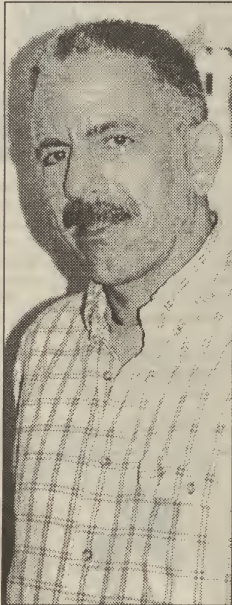
Gay letter-carrier threatens lawsuit over termination

by Dennis Conkin

An East Bay gay postal carrier was fired from the San Leandro Post Office a week before Christmas, just after filing a claim for immediate medical disability retirement because of a terminal HIV-related condition. Stephen Murphy, whose excellent delivery record once earned him a Carrier of the Month award from the San Leandro branch, has contacted AIDS Legal Referral Panel for assistance and will pursue legal action for AIDS-related discrimination, even though the postmaster for the branch now says the action was in error and he would not be fired.

Murphy received the dismissal notice from a supervisor, despite having already filed for retirement from the United States Postal Service on December 5 because of HIV-related cardiomyopathy. He has been on medical disability because of his illness since September—and although the supervisor didn't know the exact nature of the condition, she knew he was seriously ill.

On December 12, Murphy received a letter from supervisor Sandra Walbert in the Customer Service branch of the San Leandro



Stephen Murphy

Post Office stating that he had been absent from duty and without leave since September, and

that he would be removed from the Postal Service "no sooner than 30 days from the receipt of notice."

Murphy told the *Bay Area Reporter* that a similar incident happened in June, where the supervisor called him at home and harassed him about medical leave papers, saying that he hadn't sent her the requisite paperwork.

Finally, one of Murphy's physicians wrote Walbert a letter demanding that she cease harassing him, and informing her that the team of physicians had filed the paperwork.

The same supervisor also once ordered Murphy to see a drug counselor in 1995 because she assumed he had a substance abuse problem when he began losing weight and had other HIV-related symptoms.

During his tenure at the San Leandro Post Office, Murphy was a highly honored worker. In addition to the Carrier of the Month award, he received more than 100 letters from postal patrons commending him for his courteous and efficient service.

"The postmaster told me that I was not terminated, and that it was a mistake. It's absurd. He wants me to drop it, but I'm not going to. I'm sick of it," Murphy said. ▼

Come one, come all... it's supes for dinner

Evening meeting set for May

by Cynthia Laird

People who can't get away from work or other obligations to attend the supervisors' weekly afternoon meetings will get a chance to see local government in action this May, when the board holds an evening session; San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz spearheaded the experiment, which members passed unanimously last Monday, December 15. If the nighttime meeting is determined to be a success, meaning there's increased public participation and interest, Katz hopes it will be repeated.

The date for next year's evening meeting has been set for Monday, May 11; Katz selected the date specifically to benefit as many people as possible, she told the *B.A.R.* First of all, it does not conflict with the Cinco de Mayo holiday; it is also after the start of Daylight Savings Time, so it will be light later. The day is early enough in May to be well before Gay Pride festivities in June, and school is still in session, meaning families haven't left the area for vacations.

A lot of San Franciscans are



Supe Leslie Katz

unable to get time off work to make the trek over to City Hall on a Monday afternoon, even if there's an item being voted on by the board that's of importance to them. Frequently, the board chambers are sparsely populated, and at times, city bureaucrats outnumber members of the public in attendance. Katz herself has other job obligations each week; she's an attorney in private practice. Several board members have outside jobs, because the annual salary for

a supervisor is only \$23,900. Had voters approved Prop. F in 1996, it would have been \$50,000.

Katz strongly believes holding an evening session will serve the interest of the public because there's an increased opportunity for more people to attend and take part during the board's "public comment" portion of the meeting.

Many cities throughout the Bay Area hold their council meetings at night. Council meetings in Berkeley, for example, draw good-size crowds regularly, and can become packed if there's something controversial on the agenda.

Katz's resolution states that "if it's determined by the Board of Supervisors that a once-yearly evening board meeting is successful in providing increased public access and participation, an evening board of supervisors meeting during the second week of May will be made an annual event."

Next year's evening meeting will not be the first time the board has met at night; previously, the supervisors have convened Town Hall-type meetings away from City Hall to address specific issues in neighborhoods. ▼

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Volume 27, Number 52
25 December 1997PUBLISHER
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A sunny new beginning for everyone

We've been looking forward to this week for quite a long time, and are awfully excited to see it arrive. Not only because it holds three special holidays — Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa — but because it is such an important part of the planet's biology. We've survived to another Winter Solstice, after which the nights get shorter and the days get longer.

The official New Year's Day is still a week away, but as far as we're concerned the solstice is the *real* beginning of the year and the start of the Northern Hemisphere's rejuvenation, all of which is genuine cause for celebration. This is perhaps the oldest time for revelry in the history of the world, with archeological evidence that ritual Winter Solstice ceremonies have been going on almost since the dawn of what we call civilization. Long-ago tribes, who feared the winter was eating the sun, found the triumph of day over night just about the best news imaginable, and a time for unbounded joy. (Except, probably, for those hapless individuals slated for the occasional human sacrifices, as a bloody awful encouragement to the sun to keep shining, the thought of which really puts the holiday traditions we have to endure into perspective.)

Here at the cusp of a new millennium, we are less superstitious than those primitive ancestors — well, *most* of us are, with the exception of some various religious fundamentalists — but it wouldn't hurt for everyone to get a little less high-tech and celebrate the renewal and rebirth of the ecosystem that feeds us (although without the human sacrifices, naturally). It's also a good time to remember the theory propagated in the book and film *Being There*, that just about everything, including the economy, has its own cycle of winter and rebirth.

Americans are seeing that theory proving itself mostly true these days, with the recession lifting and more opportunities for workers developing since the winter of Ronald Reagan's discontent. By now, the better situation for workers has been going on for so long that falling unemployment rates no longer spook Wall Street investors into crashing the market every time they're released, as was the case month after month last year. That's good, because saving and investing are important for the country's

fiscal development, and diminished unemployment is good for the least fortunate, but it must be acknowledged we have a long way to go before the news is good enough.

According to figures gathered by the California Department of Finance recently, most incomes have dropped throughout the state's households since 1989 — and the lower a person began on the ladder of success, the steeper the drop in income they likely suffered. After adjusting for inflation, 80% of Californians saw their incomes fall; the ones who started as among the poorest 10 percent lost nearly 20 percent of purchasing power. The top 10 percent, however, saw their incomes rise by more than four percent.

Those figures bear out what a lot of people have been insisting for a long time: the gap between rich and poor in America is getting wider, which is bad for everyone (even that top 10 percent). History teaches that as the middle class disappears, so does a country's stability.

There is no good time to ignore the suffering of our fellow human beings, but it is especially important to recognize the prob-

lems at this time of good will and religious celebrating. The throngs of people outside local stores have, for far too long, included far too many people unable to buy a decent holiday meal for themselves and their families, much less presents. And there are still far too many well-heeled Scrooges out there who consider the situation somebody else's problem. (Or, worse yet, not really a problem at all; they're wrong.)

As the economy accelerates, we find ourselves in the most prosperous country in the world at its most prosperous time; we think it should be possible to incorporate some of the less fortunate in that good news, instead of leaving them behind to die of starvation and exposure on our sidewalks. If we can't do that, or are unwilling to demand that our lawmakers protect those poor people, we're still sacrificing our fellow humans in our quest for sunnier times.

Whatever holiday(s) you celebrate this year — or even if you choose to avoid them all together — we hope you have remembered the less fortunate. Let's make sure that everyone enjoys a brighter and warmer season ahead. ▼



Editorial



They're holidays, not competitions!

by Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman

December is sometimes a hard month for Jewish people. The ever-present Christmas mall music (ironically, much of it written by Jews), the ubiquitous red and green decorations, the perfunctory holiday greetings at shops; all these remind Jewish people that we are not of the American majority culture. In addition, we become invisible as Jews, or find ourselves in the awkward position of having to respond to every well-meaning salesperson who smiles and says, "Merry Christmas," by declaring our Jewish identity.

"No, actually I don't celebrate Christmas — I'm Jewish."

To which the reply is often a look of confusion, or embarrassment, or a mumbled, "Well, Merry, the thing that you do, what's it called?"

One year I was shopping with my son Asher, who was then about four years old. The clerk said to him, "Now, have you been good for Santa?" Asher replied, "I don't have to be good — I'm Jewish!"

This seasonal invisibility as Jews reminds many of us of our ongoing invisibility as gay people. These two identities are not worn

publicly, so short of walking around with a *kipah* and a "I'm queer and I'm here" T-shirt at all times, we must constantly deal with the world's incorrect assumptions about who we are. We must make choices about when and how to declare our identities.

This is exactly the message modern Jews can find in the holy days of Chanukah. Chanukah celebrates the Jewish refusal to pass in order to gain material goods. About 2,100 years ago, Antiochus IV, king of Assyria, offered the Jews considerable monetary bribes to forsake their ancestral religion and adopt the majority culture of his Greek empire. Most of the Jews rebelled and hid in desert caves, fighting a guerrilla war for freedom. Eventually, they achieved political and religious liberty.

It is sad that some contemporary Jews try to assimilate by making Chanukah into the Jewish equivalent of Christmas, stressing materialistic aspects such as decorations and presents. This is disrespectful to both holy days. Religious Christians are appalled by the American consumption orgy that has become Christmas. The desire of some American Jews to partake of this rat race of

excess is profoundly contrary to the spirit of Chanukah.

There is nothing wrong in Jewish people joining with our Christian friends and neighbors in their celebration of Christmas. This year, our congregation is fortunate to find a temporary home at Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church. It will certainly be our pleasure and honor to be with them at their special season.

But Chanukah is not the Jewish Christmas. It should not become a venue of competition with Christianity, or a way to assimilate the values of the frantic gala of American materialism. Chanukah is about Jewish and personal integrity; we observe it best by living our lives in a way which honors its ethical imperative. ▼

Guest Opinion

The author is the Rabbi of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, which holds weekly services Fridays at 8:15 p.m. For now, the congregation meets at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, located at 3281 16th Street. For more information, call (415) 861-6932.

LETTERS

Distracting, dividing, dishonoring

When a reader protests your criticism of Chita Rivera as unfair [Mailstrom, November 27], you "apologize unreservedly." When respected community leaders protest your criticism of Pat Christen as personal, unfair, and divisive, it is "nervy" of them to do so [Editorial, "Letter imperfect," November 27].

I look to newspapers to present real news in a truthful manner, and to separate editorial coverage from news coverage. Upon reading both fact and opinion, I will make up my own mind.

I believe that your coverage is not meeting these standards, and that in its personal attacks and meanness, it dishonors a tireless leader. By distracting and dividing, it dishonors our community and our mutual effort.

Bob Glavin
San Francisco

[The comment about Rivera was personal, with no bearing on how the performer did her job; therefore we apologized for having printed it in the first place. That has not been the case with Christen: our criticisms have always had to do with the performance of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's executive director, not with the person.]

Michaelangelo and Marlene

[The following is an open letter to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation:]

OUTreach, Vol. 2, No. 3, November 1997, contains an article suggesting that an SFAF study on unsafe sex confirms the analysis put forth by Michaelangelo Signorile in his book, *Life Outside*. While there are many problems with discussions of scientific study by press release, there are several particularly troubling issues in regard to this one. Since there is no letters to the editor section in *OUTreach*, I have to use the Open Letter process to discuss the conclusions expressed in this article.

Several months ago, SFAF published the results of a study which showed high levels of client satisfaction. When Michael Petrelis challenged that data with original documents, the only response of SFAF was to deny Michael access to services at SFAF and two other agencies. To the best of my knowledge, no policy was instituted to prevent such "tweaking" of data in the future. This does not inspire confidence in conclusions drawn from SFAF data.

The anonymous author of the article makes the association between the data of the study and Signorile's analysis. A researcher, Dr. Diaz, is quoted as describing the partners of men in unsafe situations as "fantasy partners." I have no idea if the researcher makes the same association between the data and Signorile's analysis that the unnamed author does. Since research-based conclusions carry more weight (and have much more strict criteria for proof), it is important to distinguish between research-based and opinion-based conclusions.

No one would dispute that low self-esteem is a major issue for gay men, and that this can result in poor sexual negotiation skills. It is a huge jump, however, to assume that this is caused by gay male cultural institutions (Signorile's analysis). The quotes in the article suggest that people do crazy things when sexually involved with someone they perceive to be much more attractive than they are. Fans of the late Marlene Dietrich will recognize this as the plot of *The Blue Angel*, a film about straight people in Weimar Germany, suggesting that the problem is not peculiar to gay male culture.

According to the sidebar, 67% of the study subjects are either African or Latino. Since people of color report inter- and intra-racial dynamics much more than Euro-Americans, I would expect there to be considerable data regarding the complex intersection of sexuality and race. No racial issues, however, were reported. Instead, the race-neutral term "body fascism" (Signorile's term) is invoked. One could excavate the term "body fascism" to uncover the racial dynamics, but this is hardly does justice to the racial dynamics of sexuality.

Unless SFAF's 180 one-on-one interviews were designed to test Signorile's analysis, it is highly doubtful that they could prove or disprove his analysis. The anonymous author can reach whatever conclusion he or she wishes to reach. The rest of us can argue with those conclusions on the same basis we can challenge any other opinion-based conclusions - false premises, unsupported conclusions, faulty analogies, and so forth. But if a researcher reaches a conclusion, any argument against it must be based on different criteria - poor research design, non-representative sample, confounding variables, poor reliability, poor validity, and so forth. These criteria have fairly specific meanings, which people go to graduate school to learn. This is why it is important to separate pop sociology from research findings, particularly in an area as critical (and political) as HIV prevention.

Sean McShee
San Francisco

Anchor weighs in

Tad Dunlap's letter [Mailstrom, December 4] savaging me was particularly cruel. In all the years that Leonard [Matlovich] and I were lovers, I never once met Mr. Dunlap or even heard of the man. Leonard brought many people home with him, including Don Tombe the Monterey gay deputy sheriff, Rich Tafel of Log Cabin, and writer Randy Shilts.

Aside from Randy's book and CD-ROM of *Conduct Unbecoming*, Randy gave the last interview in his life to Garry Wills of *Rolling Stone* magazine. Published on September 30th, 1993 (pp. 47-123), Randy is quoted verbatim: "What you get, you couldn't make up. One example was Tom Dooley and Lenny Matlovich both having the same lover. ... There was this guy [Cliff Anchor] I had known for 15 years because he lived up at the Russian River where I have another home. I knew that he had been very close to Matlovich, and then when I started doing the book, he pulled out all these files he had on Tom Dooley (who had secretly been discharged from the Navy for being gay). I mean, he had everything substantiated - totally, perfectly." (p.48) Linda Albano, Randy Shilts's longtime co-worker, is still alive, and I am sure will be willing to substantiate matters.

I first met Leonard in 1979. We were introduced by former Navy yeoman Jim Greenwood and his lover, Russell Rich, who lived in the flat immediately above Mueller's Deli on Castro Street. Leonard, a few months later, relocated here to Guerneville and broadcast frequently on KRJB-FM with me.

That we were an "item" can also be confirmed by Carol Kanner, who came to the Russian River Area from LA about 1980 to be Leonard's "token straight" waitress in his pizza parlor (an in-joke). Carol was the one who raised money to put the banners on the lampposts in Guerneville to honor Leonard recently. And there are enough mutual friends around who also know.

There were reasons Leonard relocated to LA. It was not of my choosing, but he had made certain decisions about his life which, as his lover, I felt I should have enough love and strength in my heart to respect. They are very personal, and I am not about to put some private aspects of our lives up in Christmas lights.

The way I learned of his death was a phone call from a reporter from Associated Press about ten days before Leonard's birthday. The reporter (figuring I knew Leonard had died) asked me what I thought of this gentle, wonderful man. When the questions became more personal, I offered to have Leonard return the call. That was when I was informed he had died. For two and a half years, I grieved and to help manage my grief, worked with other AIDS patients at Face to Face. It is only in recent times that I have been able to come to some semblance of terms with that loss, and the deaths of many friends to AIDS.

As to Leonard's memorial at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC: I observed cats and dogs urinating on the white gravel and simply replaced it with solid stone with the full knowledge and consent of Leonard's Mom, Vera, and Dad, Matt. As with most installation jobs, it takes time to complete, especially in a not-for-profit cemetery which has come upon hard times and has to find the labor.

Leonard loved the history of Congressional Cemetery and that is why, with the consent of Harvey Milk's lover, Scott, he gave the urn containing Harvey Milk's relics to the Cemetery in 1987. When no-one else agreed to take responsibility for those relics, I paid many hundreds of dollars I could least afford to cover bills, including those left unpaid by the 1993 ad hoc group gathered at the Cemetery.

Even after these bills were paid, the Cemetery contacted me about the urn and its disposition. My good comrades in the Alexander Hamilton Post and Mark Repass, our Washington, DC Representative, kindly volunteered to assist in this matter. Just to make sure my lover's wishes were followed.

In the light of so much controversy about this issue between the Legion Post #448 (to which I belong) and Ken McPherson and other interested parties, I would assume that the *Bay Area Reporter* would act responsibly by first investigating and contacting those who are the targets of such vicious, hateful, personal attacks. I also hope that those who make promises will keep them, with respect to Harvey's urn.

Certainly I am really surprised and disappointed that the B.A.R. allowed themselves to be duped by the writer of a letter who claims to have been at my lover's deathbed in West Hollywood when he died. I have never met the man, heard of the man, and hardly think he is in any position to know the facts. I cared for many AIDS patients, and was with them when they died. It does not make me an authority, however, on their spousal arrangements, relationships or anything else.

Cliff Anchor
Monte Rio, CA

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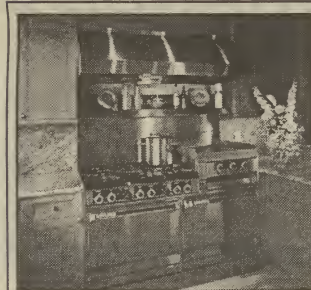
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A chorus of criticism

I've been meaning to write for some time now, and thanks to your recent article about the Harvey Milk Democratic Club vs. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, I finally am prompted to do so. Please make it clear that although I am a member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the opinions that I express here are my own; I do not speak for the chorus.

There are several points I'd like to make about the United Airlines issue. As a gay man and a proud member of the SFGMC, I find this whole dispute regarding United Airlines ludicrous and terribly detrimental to the cause of gay/lesbian/bi/trans rights. To the B.A.R. I would like to say that instead of writing an uplifting, positive story such as the Gay Men's Chorus is celebrating our 20th anniversary, and what that has meant and continues to mean to our community, you give in to your "Inner Tabloid" and focus on discord within the community. In doing so, you failed to completely research your story. That failure provided a slanted viewpoint on a complex issue. Had you done your job, you would have discovered that United Airlines is not the only airline that is named in the lawsuit, but in fact most of the other major ones are as well (American, Delta, Continental, Northwest, to name a few). You also would have mentioned that during the chorus' last concert, not only did the audience boo at the mention of United's sponsorship of the concert, but that very same audience cheered and applauded when the director stated that the chorus' relationship with United is a positive step towards exposing our community to people who are not normally in contact with us, the very ones who make the decisions about things such as domestic partnership benefits to our community. Such a relationship should be praised and encouraged. You also would have pointed out that United Airlines is sponsoring the Castro Theatre's upcoming "Christmas with the Crawfords" [sic] event, and continues to sponsor many such events in our community. United also sponsors the Names Project and the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles. You also would have reported that United's Gay Employees Union does not support a boycott. Finally, you would have learned that United Airlines donated to the chorus gifts such as flights for two anywhere in the world that United flies, which the chorus is using in a raffle to raise funds for our trip to Australia in February. You could then have had a wonderful story on how the chorus, which was the first chorus to proudly identify itself as Gay, will be the first gay Chorus outside Australia ever to perform there, and has been asked to join in the 20th Anniversary Mardi Gras festivities in Sydney in a variety of ways. Instead, you portray the chorus as having betrayed its own community by colluding with the evil United. All because United is not offering domestic partnership benefits, which, incidentally, I should point out that the B.A.R. doesn't offer these benefits to its employees, either.

To the policymakers at the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, I'd like to know where you get the right to dictate to the community who should get what moneys from where, as well as who we should boycott. Is the Harvey Milk Club willing to donate tens of thousands of dollars to help sponsor the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus? Why single the chorus out when United proudly sponsors various events and organizations within our community? Does it really make sense to you that someone (whom you see as contrary to your own opinions and beliefs) would willingly and knowingly give their name and moneys to organizations in whose missions they didn't agree with? Your call to boycott United is shortsighted. Why aren't you boycotting all the airlines that are litigants in the case? Start taking Greyhound and Amtrak instead. If you are serious about your stance, let's see how serious. To use a tired phrase, "Show me the money."

We as a community need to stand united (no pun intended). Our fragmentation is our weakness. Rather than alienating potential corporate allies like United who are willing to support us, perhaps our energy would be best spent on working to unite our community and enlighten the other 90% of the population who are often in the dark about who and what the gay community is and has to offer. Articles like the one in the B.A.R. serve no purpose other than to fragment us further and to feed into the negativity perpetuated by those who would prefer that gay rights and the gay community would step back into the Dark Ages of living in the closet without all the freedoms that we in this generation have come to take for granted.

Jimmy White
San Francisco

[According to our records, the chorus won't turn 20 until next year; we did a 1,000 word story on its 18th anniversary last year (which, for some reason, did not prompt any kind of letter from Mr. White), and we are not about to apologize for reporting the news when it happens, whether or not it gets maligned as "giving in to our 'inner tabloid'" — whatever the hell that is. As for the other airlines' participation in the suit, and the position of the United gay employees, we have reported on those this year. For more on this controversy, read on.]

Not United in Colorado

[The following was sent to United Airlines:]

On behalf of the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project, I thank you for your offer to support our work in 1998. CLIP applauds United's support of equal rights, but believes that United's support is anything but unequivocal. As an organization that seeks to obtain for lesbians and gays the same legal benefits enjoyed by heterosexuals, CLIP is dismayed by United's lack of support for domestic partner benefits in San Francisco. As a result, our board of directors has voted to decline your offer.

To clarify, CLIP was responsible for the legal defeat of Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2. It would not serve the gay and lesbian community of this state — or any state for that matter — if we failed to reciprocate the support we received during that fight by turning our back on this pertinent issue now. Thus, to accept your offer would compromise our relationship with the gay and lesbian community and be inconsistent with CLIP's struggle for equal rights.

We feel that the public interest would be much better served by United's eschewing the misguided costs involved in the San Francisco ATA lawsuit and applying them toward compliance with the San Francisco ordinance. A 1994 Hewitt Associates report, "Domestic Partners and Employee Benefits," states that only 2 to 3% or less of all employees typically elect domestic partner coverage. Compared to the expenses involved in this lawsuit, the benefit costs are relatively minimal.

We are willing to come to the table and discuss your corporate sponsorship of CLIP when United Airlines is ready to offer a benefits program that recognizes equality for all employees — homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual.

Julie C. Tolleson
Executive Director,
Colorado Legal Initiatives Project (CLIP)
Denver, CO

Don't cozy up to United

United Airlines can't get cozy with us and oppose domestic partnership laws. Even worse, the Gay Men's Chorus's Jim Payne overlooks the fact that our "gay brothers and lesbian sisters" at the airline are, at the very least, led by a man who would rather kiss corporate ass than stand up and tell United where to go. United is no different than Coors or any other big corporation that wants our money, and then spends it to hurt us.

I completely understand that the domestic partners thing has the city between lots of rocks and hard places. I'd rather see the supes either leave D.P. as it is, or kill it cleanly. It ain't broke, but it will be if the compromise crowd has its way. And United will be very, very happy.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

Thanks from Tenderloin Tessie

We, the Board of Directors of the Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners, would like to thank the following for their support:

- 1) The New Gold Room, where there was an auction and show that raised \$1,428, Jack Eichenburger, Irma Blaster, Maxine, Frank Stevens, Hal Gage, Stan Bates, Harry Mulford, and the rest of the entertainers, and especially the patrons.
- 2) David Gin and the Sunrise Foundation for the fabulous dinner they held for us that raised \$550.
- 3) Castro Lions Cable Car Chapter for their donation of \$500.
- 4) The 49ers Foundation.
- 5) Suzie Wong and her Turkey Pluck, Gladys and Keith Bumps.
- 6) Knights of Malta, Phoenix Uniform Club, Gay Times, Susie Cartwright and Donna Sachells, Japan-town Band (Dean), Mike Waculik (flyers/graphics), So Horney Beaver and the Alameda Ducal Council, David Kapp and Polk Rendezvous, Bernie Lemmu at the Avenidas Bar & Restaurant.
- 7) Sweet Lips (B.A.R.).
- 8) David Chocbot and the Unitarian Church, but most of all, the 132 volunteers. Some could only work an hour or two, but every volunteer is always welcome. We served 756 meals, plus the volunteers.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope that you can join us Christmas Day. We will need more volunteers, and we serve dinner from 1 to 4 p.m. Those wishing to donate or volunteer should call A. L. Allen at (415) 621-1169.

A.L. Allen
Secretary, Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners

Correction:

A letter in last week's Mailstrom claimed that the Pet Pourri store on 19th Street intended to move or otherwise harm a tree outside the business. We have subsequently learned that after an initial inquiry about moving the tree, the owner of the business opted simply to prune it. We apologize for the incorrect information.

POLITICS

Fed ruling clouds politicians' horizons

by Wayne Friday

The federal appeals court ruling last week that upheld California's term-limits law sent tremors through the state's political landscape. The 8-3 decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a 1990 voter-approved initiative that not only limited legislators' terms, but also banned those lawmakers for life from seeking their old jobs.

Unless the U.S. Supreme Court steps in – and most feel that is highly unlikely – the term limits issue in this state appears to be settled. That means that a total of 26 incumbent legislators (including Assembly Speaker **Cruz Bustamante** and state Senate President Pro Tem **Bill Lockyer**, both Democrats) will not be eligible to run for re-election next year.

Bustamante, who has one year left on his Assembly term, will likely seek the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor next year, and Lockyer, the powerful Hayward Democrat, is reportedly ready to announce his candidacy for state attorney general. A number of Democratic Assemblymembers are being mentioned to replace Speaker Bustamante, who some feel will step down from his current post after the state budget is finalized next summer. Assemblyman **Antonio Villaraigosa** of Los Angeles is the current favorite.

However, others are being mentioned in Sacramento for the job, including San Francisco Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**. Migden replaced **Willie Brown** in the 13th District and has quickly risen up the Democratic leadership ladder during her first term in the capital. State Senator **Michael Polanco** of Los Angeles is considered the front-runner to replace Lockyer, with Senator **Pat Johnson** of the Central Valley also being mentioned as a possibility.

Locally, the court decision means that state Senator **Quentin Kopp** (Independent) cannot run again in his San Francisco/San Mateo district. Popular former Assemblywoman **Jackie Speier** is expected to run for Kopp's seat.

Both San Francisco assemblymembers, Migden and **Kevin Shelley**, will be forced out of that body in 2002, and both have a number of options open when their Assembly careers end. Migden, a former chair of the county Democratic Party, and Shelley, the son of a former mayor, both served on the SF Board of Supervisors and are thought to be leaning toward higher office.

Migden, a favorite of the city's powerful gay and lesbian community and a seasoned politician, would reportedly like to be San Francisco's mayor in the not-too-distant future, and Shelley is often spoken of as a future member of the U.S. House of Representatives. As for possible elevation to the state Senate one day, Migden lives in state Senator **John Burton**'s district, while Shelley resides in Quentin Kopp's.

Term limits have been in effect



Willie Brown, Robert Barnes, Carole Migden, Juanita Owens, and Rosalinda del Moral at the Dec. 21 Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club meeting honoring the mayor.

in California for seven years, and the law has already swept away decades of legislative experience. By next year, the entire 120-member Legislature will have been totally overhauled. The recent court decision in all probability makes term limits in the Golden State a fait accompli.

Politics and people

There are only two openly gay members of the U.S. House, but Wisconsin's Representative **Tammy Baldwin**, San Diego Councilwoman **Christine Kehoe**, and retired Washington state National Guard Colonel **Margarethe Cammermeyer** – all Democrats – are given a good chance of defeating their GOP op-

ponents next year. As many as three openly gay male House candidates will likely emerge soon after the first of the year. Representatives **Barney Frank** and **Jim Kolbe** should be able to form a new House caucus after the November '98 elections.

Political pundits in the state capital are saying it isn't wise to invite Prop. 209's **Ward Connerly** and Governor **Pete Wilson** to the same holiday cocktail soirees. Wilson is reportedly very unhappy with Connerly for his pro-gay vote when the UC Regents approved providing health benefits for same-sex partners of university employees.

When informed by a reporter that Wilson and his aides were extremely upset and trashing him behind his back, Connerly, echoing **Rhett Butler**, told the *LA Times*, "I don't give a damn." He added that while Wilson and others insisted that treating gay couples the same as married heterosexuals was "undermining" marriage, he believed that "there are values that transcend marriage: the values of equality, individual liberty, and letting people pursue happiness on their own terms."

No-one has trashed the current Board of Supes more than me – and this column – when I felt they deserved it (and I have the cardrum lacerations to prove it!). However, I do think they deserve a raise from the current \$23,924 to \$39,000 a year when the issue comes before the voters next June. Perhaps if we pay these people a livable – or at least a near-livable – wage, we can attract some better quality candidates to the board. At least the increase might ensure better board meeting attendance.

There are a lot of people who have helped make this column

possible (for better or worse) in 1997, and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish them all Happy Holidays and an even better New Year! Many thanks to Mick Riddolfi, Dianne Feinstein and Dick Blum, Terence and Lisa Hallinan, Carole Migden and Cris Arguedas, Bob Ross, Jim Rivaldo, Doris Ward, Kevin McCarthy, Dennis Collins, Connie O'Connor, Kay Tsenin, Ken Cady and David Tan, Jack Davis, Kevin Shelley, Dick Pabich, Lillian Sing, Frank Jordan and Wendy Paskin, Arlo Smith, Ted Fang, Ellen Chaitin and V. Roy Lefcourt, the immortal Sweet Lips and the Polk Rendezvous gang, Larry Eppinette, Hector, Gardner, Ed, Julie Tang, Fred Hobson, Randy Alfred, Dennis Conkin, Barbara Kaufman, Mary Callanan, Ed Petrillo and Eric, Susan Leal, Nancy and Paul Pelosi, Michael Colbruno, Harry Britt, Steve Cox, Hadie Redd, Chuck Davis, Michael O'Malley, Robert Oakes, Tom Horn, Chuck Haines, Paul Petroni, Tony and Kathy Ribera, Robert Barnes, Dan and Donna Addario, David Webb and the Giraaffe staff, Warren Hinkle, Robert Golovich, Larry Bush, Teddy Hirschfield, Cheryl Crane and Josh LeRoy, Jim Bonko, Ron Albers, Mike Housh and Rick Procurer, Belva Davis and Bill Moore, John Laird, Danny Nicoletta, Chuck and the *P.S. crew, Sharon McNight, Marge Poscher, Angela Alioto, Mike and Beverly Hennessey, Sue Bierman, George Masters, Chuck Morrow, Tom Ammiaro, Scott Shafer, Jack Molinari, Dick Hongisto, Kevin Wadsworth and Paul Johnson, Hank Wilson, Marcus Conant, Rev. Cecil Williams and Jan Mirikitani, Ron Ross, Herb Donaldson, Anthony Garrett, Cloey and Skip Hewlett, David Kelsey, Jeff Sheehy, Juanita Owens, Leland Yee, Frank Robinson, Phil Matier, Kevin Ryan, Fred Lau, Barbara Boxer, Katherine Feinstein and Rick Mariano, Tom Nolan, Rick Salinas, Pat Norman, Rod McKuen, Lynn Woolsey, Leslie Katz, John Burton, Sharon Bretz, Milton and Carolene Marks, Morgan and the staff at The Cafe, Bryan James, Mark Leno, Jeff Brown, Michael Weiss, Chuck, Delores, DeeDee and everyone at Aunt Charley's, José Sarria, James Hornel, Mark Campanella, Don Rogers and everyone at Ginger's Too, Jon Kouba, Paul Melbostad, Louise Renne, Tim Wolfred and, of course, many more.

My extra special thanks goes out to my invaluable editor, Mike Salinas, a model of great patience and tact, and the rest of the really special staff at the *Bay Area Reporter*. I wish everyone the very best for the Yuletide and a happy, healthy New Year. ▼

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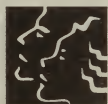
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Hangers for the holidays



Christina Crawford, adopted daughter of gay movie icon Joan Crawford and author of the notorious bestseller *Mommie Dearest*, was a hit at Marc Huestis' "Christmas With Christina Crawford" extravaganza last weekend at the Castro. Ms. Crawford, seen here holding a Yuletide hanger of her own creation that went to a lucky audience member, reminisced about her famous mother prior to a showing of *Mommie Dearest*, and proved herself a remarkably sane and sharp interviewee.

Keep the soul in solstice, y'all!

by Beth Elliott

Pardon Me Goy, Is That the Chanukah Choo-Choo? Dept.: Well, the *Chronicle*, in an arts and entertainment piece about the very oddball holiday performances available in profusion here, rather confirmed a point I've made here on more than one occasion: a lot of Elsewhereans use the safe haven of San Francisco to bite back at the home folks who made them into the black sheep oddballs they are. Some of them work out their angst through dark satire and parody, much to the appreciation of local and Elsewhereans alike. Some just get angry and lash out at anyone who reminds them of the hurtful home folks.

I hope at this time, when the wheel of the year turns at the point of most darkness and the light begins to get stronger, that people will get the point of the *Chronicle* writer's comment that we adopt a lot of black sheep ... said remark having been made in the context of the entertainment their lampooning of the rest of the country provides.

We appreciate dark, cynical humor here; always have. Mark Twain wrote here. So did Ambrose Bierce. Lenny Bruce was popular here. This, at the same time that we developed our legend of boundless optimism. The seemingly contradictory combination is our way of balancing the random intermingling of good fortune and ironic bad luck which has always been part of life here — remember that most of the 49ers died. Remember that for all the talk of bounteous California with her cornucopia, this is still the West; dry, chancy. There's a particular sense of humor one develops to thrive here. You see a fair amount of it in this column.

So the point is that if you can hit that balance along with us, juggling the two sides of life, we'll take you to our bosom. If all you do is lash out, we'll think you're a pain in the ass.

It's been very recently that the phrase "Get over it!" has gained currency, and yet it's been the key to the California dream for so

long. Like the Rhine maidens in the Ring Cycle (those proto-hippies, if one takes an Anna Russell-esque view), California has the gold of joy there for dancing around and basking in for those who can learn to laugh at themselves. For those who can't, there is a curse: a curse bestowed upon them by nobody but themselves.

In this season when dark and light are both so pronounced, when the balance between them shifts to the light again (as it always will), may you know joy even if through tears. Let's make fun of each other together, so we may always laugh.

I Went Back to Lesbian Nation, My Community Was Gone, or 20/20 Hinde Sight Dept.: What really hurts is that the following (summarized) exchange was between two women I know and respect. It took place in the pages of L.A.'s *Lesbian News*. LN bills itself as the longest-running lesbian publication in the world, perhaps because it succeeded the old *Lesbian Tide* (I'm not quite clear on their 23 years; I thought the *Tide* lasted till the late '70s).

(And yes, you can all join in on one of the many send-ups of the old Dr. Hook song, last line, then chorus: "I rejoice in my dykeness but I can't get my likeness on the cover of the *Lesbian Tide*. *Lesbian Tide* ... Gonna get my picture on the cover ... gonna send five copies to my mother...")

But I digress. I'm reading Dina Bachelor Evan's response to a column by Jeanne Cordova, and I'm thinking, you guys are scarin' me here. I hope these are just the extremes of the range of possible discussion here, and not the sum of it: Jeanne Cordova wrote that we should approach the question of being women trying to get ahead in a man's world by emulating G.I. Jane and taking a "suck my dick" attitude. Dina Bachelor Evan equated this with "power over principle, sex over spirituality" [these are mutually exclusive?], "materialism over humanitarianism," and taking "pride in

having the courage to ... pollute the planet further," etc. She went on to say, "Women have the capacity to bring their innate knowledge of healing and spiritual wisdom to the forefront at a time when it is our destiny and birthright to do so."

Ya know, I kinda think that time has passed. I do think that sex and bodily cycles and spirituality tend to be more intertwined in women, and that this may give us more potential for coming to wisdom and spiritual insight through living. But is a knowledge of healing innate? I don't think so. Knowledge comes from learning.

Wisdom comes from experiencing stuff and pondering it, and usually includes getting a number of unpleasant wake-up calls in the process, so you do stop and think. If it were that innate, would Lesbian Nation have gone down in flames? Would all those innately peaceful women have turned on so many sisters they way they did?

Not a chance.

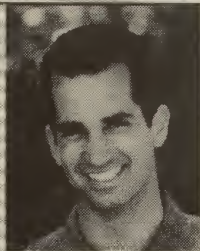
The scary thing for me about this is not just the lack of awareness that all the calling these things our destiny and birthright in the world never made them live up to their billing. Yes, we know more about working through many different things ... but too many of us adopt the victim/entitlement stance, and never accomplish the healing and wholeness we claim to be achieving through exercising these "innate" capabilities. And too many of us, even those "over" the woman as incarnation of the Goddess stuff, have adopted a shorthand version: the expectation that other women consider us just darling, even when we're being little twits.

So this is what lesbian feminism and lesbian culture come down to at the end of the century in terms of empowering women in the real world: declaring women's automatic goodness and wisdom, or declaring women's ability to flash dick as well as any boy.

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HISTORY LESSON

20 years ago this week:

Bawdy Politic busted

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Toronto police raid the office of gay newspaper *The Body Politic*, December 30, 1977.

On the week between Christmas and New Year's 20 years ago, the staff of *The Body Politic*, at that time Canada's largest gay newspaper, got an unwelcome surprise. Waving a search warrant, five police officers arrived at the newspaper's Toronto office Friday, December 30, 1977 to hunt for evidence supporting a charge that *The Body Politic* (which was collectively operated) had violated Section 168 of the Canadian criminal code — "use of the mails for the purpose of transmitting or delivering anything that is obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous." The raid — along with the ensuing brouhaha — marked a turning point in the maturation of Canada's lesbian and gay community.

The incident actually started a month earlier, when *The Body Politic* published its December-January issue. In it was an article by collective member Gerald Hannon, which was titled "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" and explored the controversial topic of man-boy love. Hannon argued that men who had sex with boys were not child molesters, as a homophobic society tended to view them, but responsible citizens performing an educational service for gay youth — liberating their sexuality. The real victims of molestation, rather, were all gays and lesbians. "Every homosexual's sexuality has been interfered with," Hannon wrote, "impeded, strangled, diverted, denounced, 'cured,' pitied, punished. That is molestation."

The Body Politic's staff was well aware that Hannon's take on the subject might cause an explosion of public outrage, both from outside and inside the lesbian and gay community. Consequently, the paper opted to run a preamble to the article, explaining that Hannon's piece had been typeset and laid out for nearly six months before the staff could agree to publish it. They had finally made the decision to run it because "the 'climate' will never be right ... but the discussion must be opened up."

The political climate was, in fact, extremely volatile. The Ontario legislature was considering passage of a gay rights bill, and the issue was being hotly debated in the mainstream press. Opponents

of the bill painted lesbians and gay men as child molesters, much as Anita Bryant and her followers had successfully done in their "Save Our Children" campaign in Dade County, Florida earlier that year. In addition, a public furor had followed the August 1977 killing of a 12-year-old Toronto boy by four men, a crime that the tabloids sensationalized as a "homosexual orgy slaying." It was in this atmosphere that *The Body Politic* printed Hannon's article — which from their perspective was an attempt to set the record "straight" on child molestation.

Predictably, the attempt backfired. The mainstream Toronto press had a field day with Hannon's article. In five separate editorials the week before Christmas, one of which was titled "Bawdy Politic," the *Toronto Sun* blasted the gay newspaper. One conservative columnist, who had often attacked the lesbian and gay community in print, personally lobbied the attorney general to take action against *The Body Politic*. On December 30, the day the *Sun* announced in a headline, "Crown To Study Sex Mag," police officers raided *The Body Politic's* office. More than three hours later, they carted off twelve boxes of manuscripts, correspondence, financial and advertising records, and subscription lists.

The week after the raid, the Canadian government brought criminal charges against the paper's nonprofit publisher, Pink Triangle Press, and three of its officers, one of whom was Hannon. Canada's lesbian and gay community was split in opinion about the case. There were those who believed that *The Body Politic* had provoked the raid by publishing the controversial article, while others were alarmed about the dangerous precedent set when police were able to seize a gay publication's records, particularly subscription lists. Many thought the charges had been trumped up in order to damage the chances of the gay rights ordinance.

It took a full year for the case to come to trial. By that time, much of the hostility against the paper had died down, largely because Toronto's new mayor, John Sewell, publicly supported *The Body Politic* and denounced all attempts at censorship of the press. In February 1979, the newspaper was acquitted of the charges. The publication promptly reprinted Hannon's article in its next edi-

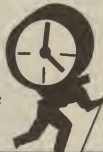
tion, along with analysis by lesbian novelist Jane Rule and an assessment of the controversy by three staff members.

But the case wasn't over. The Canadian government appealed the decision, and the officers of the paper were retried in May 1982. Once again they received an acquittal, and the charges were finally laid to rest. At that time, the materials confiscated by the police in the 1977 raid were finally returned to the paper.

The ordeal cost *The Body Politic* 100,000 Canadian dollars in legal fees and six years of aggravation. Though the collective attempted to regroup and start over, the

paper never fully recovered from its financial problems. In February 1987, after celebrating its fifteenth anniversary, *The Body Politic* closed shop, citing its outstanding debts as the reason. Ironically, just two months earlier, the Ontario legislature finally passed a provincial gay rights ordinance, banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. ▼

David Bianco is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.net.



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United Press International

A 52-year-old Fairborn, Ohio man, Geoffrey Hollis, is spending the holiday season in the Greene County Jail in Xenia pending an evidentiary hearing next month.

Hollis is charged with violating his probation on a pornography charge by using a mechanical de-

vice while masturbating. He was arrested this week after a probation officer observed the act through a window at Hollis's home.

If convicted of violating his probation, Hollis will have to serve the remaining 289 days of an 11-month sentence. Hollis's lawyer tells UPI that Hollis, who is impotent, was using the mechanical device to help achieve an erection. ▼



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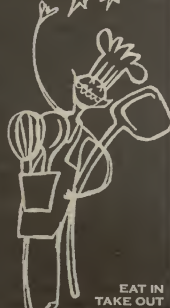
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Follow-up: UPI gets it

 by Don Romesburg,
 GLAAD/SF media resource
 center manager

After receiving an October 24 GLAADAlert on a highly sensational October 22 United Press International (UPI) story that pointed the finger at the gay community for spreading the use of methamphetamines, representatives of the wire service pledged to examine the story, and issued a statement on Tuesday, December 16 acknowledging GLAAD's complaints.

"A national study calls methamphetamine abuse the most difficult addiction to treat and ranks it as California's fastest-growing drug problem," the offensive UPI story began, adding, "There are reports that in the San Francisco gay community, use of meth is related to 'marathon sex,' which is often unprotected. Its popularity in the gay community is now spreading to blue-collar workers, young professionals and college students."

[Although the Bay Area Reporter is a United Press International subscriber, it decided against running the story because of its homophobic tone.]

UPI Assistant General Manager Tom Gauger expressed concern over the story in conversations with GLAAD, noting that the otherwise reputable wire service had no desire to appear biased or sloppy in its reportage. He asked GLAAD to examine the initial report to ascertain whether the bias came from the journalist or the source material. Pulse Check: Special Report, Methamphetamine Trends in Five Western States and Hawaii, by the Office of National Drug Policy, does connect San Francisco gay usage to "marathon sex," but this is a minor part of a much larger report. The UPI writer exclusively highlighted the San Francisco user data, while ignoring the findings on users in the larger cities of Los Angeles and San Diego, both of which have more widespread problems.

Moreover, the study clearly states that in statewide usage "there are two basic profiles of users: 1) students, both high school and college age, males and females, and 2) white blue-collar workers, or unemployed persons in their twenties."

When provided with this evidence, UPI then reviewed its story. On December 16, it issued the following statement:

"Thanks for your letter — your points are valid. The story does not meet our standards and can be read in a way that gives a misleading impression out of context of the original report. We strive for accuracy, fairness and balance in our news reports, and all those involved in this one have been reminded of that."

Please write UPI and let them know that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community appreciates their acknowledgment. However, suggest to them that UPI institute sexual orientation training for its journalists, and issue guidelines on bias-free journalism to its staff so that incidents like this can be averted in the future.

Contact: John Walston, Director of Editorial, UPI, 1400 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, DC

20005, fax: 202.898.8064, e-mail: jwalston@upi.com.

Gay sites netted in cyber patrol sting

Cyber Patrol, a leading Internet filtering software used in homes, schools, and libraries across the country, has recently been blocking the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender area of one of the Internet's most popular communities, a "neighborhood" called "WestHollywood" on Geocities. Geocities is a company that provides free Web space and archives sites into specific "neighborhoods" based on common interests. WestHollywood houses approximately 23,000 Web sites devoted to lesbian and gay interests (including sites such as Gay Hockey and the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum's Young Adult Program).

Microsystems Software, Inc., Cyber Patrol's manufacturer, said that the decision was made due to WestHollywood containing a large number of sites that displayed "nudity" or "pornographic images." Cyber Patrol is used by Internet giant America Online, CompuServe, and the Boston Library, whose users will no longer be able to access the area.

Bob Parker, Geocities' WestHollywood Community Leader Liaison, noted Geocities' clear guidelines for creating a Web page in the community. Those who use Geocities are prohibited from "displaying material containing nudity or pornographic material of any kind; providing material that is grossly offensive to the online community, including blatant expressions of bigotry, prejudice, racism, hatred, or profanity; displaying material that exploits children under 18 years of age."

When GLAAD ran a spot check of 100 sites on Geocities, it found that 2/3 of the sites contained nothing that could even be perceived as nudity. The other 1/3 of the sites contained photos that had partial nudity (for example, a shirtless man). GLAAD also noted that WestHollywood was rich with important informational and support resources.

When GLAAD approached Microsystems Software CEO Dick Gorgens last week, he admitted, "Upon my review, you were absolutely correct in your assessment that the subdirectory block on WestHollywood is prejudicial to the Gay and Lesbian Geocities community. We took the 'easier' approach to blocking the small number of actionable non-nudity publishers in that area, rather than individually sanctioning them. Taking that technique to the limit would have us pull the plug on the entire Internet, which is obviously not our plan."

Gorgens also pledged, "Over the next week, the problem will be corrected."

A week later, however, the blocks still remain in place. Please write Microsystems Software, let them know how you feel about this discriminatory move, and urge them to lift the block.

Contact: Dick Gorgens, CEO, Microsystems Software, Inc., 600 Worcester Road, Framington, Massachusetts 01701, e-mail: dickg@microsys.com; Cyber Patrol's Web page is located at <http://www.cyberpatrol.com>.

AFA finds 'Ellen' Watch irresistible ... again!

The American Family Association (AFA), in its quest to derail diversity on American television, has taken to using GLAAD's "Ellen" Watch on a regular basis. Every Thursday, GLAAD produces "Ellen" Watch, which gives subscribers a synopsis of the previous night's episode, and lists the advertisers who appeared. This is the second incident of the AFA appropriating GLAAD's work, for the most part word-for-word, for their own narrow-minded, anti-gay agenda, and releasing it as an "AFA Action Alert."

Compare these two paragraphs:

GLAAD's (12/18/97): "When Ellen gives Laurie a key to her house as part of a one month anniversary present, Laurie assumes that Ellen is asking her and Holly to move in. Ellen then tells her the truth, which causes a rift between them. Laurie, worried about her and Holly's emotional future, breaks off her relationship with a heartbroken Ellen."

The AFA's (12/19/97): "The ABC/Disney program continued to push the homosexual agenda on the 12/17/97 episode when Ellen gives Laurie a key to her house as part of a one month anniversary present. Laurie assumes that Ellen is asking her and Holly to move in. Ellen then tells her the truth, which causes a rift between them. Laurie, worried about her and Holly's emotional future, breaks off her relationship with a heartbroken Ellen."

This example was followed by the very same advertiser information that GLAAD compiled. Contact for contact! After the AFA used "Ellen" Watch last month, GLAAD began including the following at the end of every "Ellen" Watch e-mail: "Ellen" Watch may be freely distributed and reprinted in all forms of media under the condition that any text used carry the full attribution of 'Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).' Buddy Smith, Editor of the "AFA Action Alert," did not return phone calls or e-mail sent by GLAAD. The e-mail in part read, "While [GLAAD is] flattered that you find our 'Ellen' Watch so helpful, [we] would ask that you give us the proper credit when using our materials."

Please do not let the AFA's narrow-minded hate be the only voice that these advertisers hear! To receive "Ellen" Watch every Thursday, contact GLAAD at glaad@glaad.org and ask to be added to the list.

AFA subscribers get GLAAD's "Ellen" Watch, why shouldn't you?

EW names Ellen 'Entertainer of the Year'

Entertainment Weekly's (EW) "Best of 1997" issue (December 26, 1997) names Ellen DeGeneres "Entertainer of the Year" in a story that articulates a number of the openly gay star's contributions to television and popular culture.

"Ellen DeGeneres is Entertainer of the Year because, at a time when an acknowledgment of homosexuality has entered all aspects of popular culture, when diversity and acceptance are the words of the day but by no means entirely the deeds, and when more and more of the sizable population of homosexual men and women working in the entertainment industry today are weighing the risks of coming out them-

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East Bay gay businesses honor Oakland Tribune

by Cynthia Laird

For the first time since its formation four years ago, the East Bay Business and Professional Alliance gave its annual media award to a mainstream publication. *The Oakland Tribune* and its parent company, the Alameda Newspaper Group (ANG), were recognized at the Alliance's annual holiday dinner Saturday, December 13, for sponsoring this year's very successful Gay Mardi Gras in September.

Over 70 gay, lesbian, and bisexual East Bay business owners and professionals attended the dinner in Oakland. The Alliance has 140 members now, and its first corporate sponsor, Uptown Body and Fender, an Oakland auto body shop owned by Giovanna Tanzillo.

Denise Petersen, Alliance president, said the *Tribune* got the award for its significant contribution to the gay community. Ken Calhoun, vice president of marketing at ANG, accepted the award, saying that the Oakland paper's sponsorship of Gay Mardi Gras marked the first time a daily paper anywhere has supported a gay event.

"It's pretty gratifying to receive this recognition," said Calhoun, who also told the crowd he is gay. "We have agreed to sponsor next year's event, too."

The Mardi Gras exceeded organizers' expectations. Thousands of queer residents from around the East Bay enjoyed gathering at Preservation Park in Oakland and



Ken Calhoun

enjoyed a sizzling afternoon of dancing, carousing, and just being able to get together in their own community. Publicity about the event also successfully attracted people from San Francisco and elsewhere in the region. When ANG was initially approached about sponsoring the Gay Mardi Gras, Calhoun said there were discussions among newspaper staff, not because of the event, but because the paper was covering other gay issues, notably the case of the Alameda schoolteacher who was the subject of a parent's complaint with the state. Ultimately, the *Tribune* did sponsor the East Bay gay pride event, and the ANG's Hayward-based newspaper, the *Daily Review*, even sponsored the gay bar tour.

"We got no more negative calls than on any other thing we spon-

sor," Calhoun added.

Going both ways

Because the Alliance is a gay chamber of commerce, Calhoun took the opportunity to promote ANG as a potential advertising vehicle for queer businesses in the East Bay. "Support goes two ways," he said. "I don't think it's the [daily] papers across the Bay who support the East Bay. Give us a shot."

Calhoun received a round of applause when he concluded his remarks by saying he plans to join the Alliance very soon.

Other Alliance award winners, all of whom were decided by a vote of the group's executive committee, follow:

- Business of the Year honors went to the nonprofit Pacific Center for Human Growth, for their work organizing the Gay Mardi Gras. Marc Gonzalez, board president, said the event would not have been possible without the support of ANG, and that she is looking forward to the 1998 extravaganza.

- The Award of Excellence went to attorney Scott Levine, for his work with the Alliance's business leaders group.

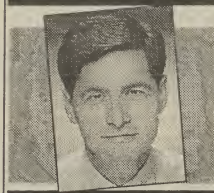
- The Founders' Award went to longtime member and Realtor Steven Biasatti, who served as the group's first vice president. Merle Yost, a founder and first president of the Alliance, presented the award to a surprised Biasatti, who said, "It's really wonderful to see this group," after the initial group of just a few people.

Peg Lum of Independent Mechanics was recognized for her efforts organizing the holiday banquet; Petersen also presented certificates to Alliance members who helped at the group's various events in 1997 and served in leadership roles.

The Alliance hosts monthly mixers at members' businesses and takes part in community events such as the Solano Stroll street fair and the Gay Mardi Gras. Members are in cities throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. ▼

For more information about the East Bay Business and Professional Alliance, call (510) 287-2571, or write P.O. Box 20980, Oakland CA 94620.

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GLAAD

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selves, DeGeneres allowed herself to become a poster girl—not for lesbianism, but for honesty," *EW* writes. "She did good, important work, work that continues to shape the public discourse." *EW* also singled out openly gay entertainer Elton John as its number nine pick.

Please acknowledge *EW* for recognizing DeGeneres' many talents and her positive influence on the evolving discussion of diversity and inclusion.

Contact: James W. Seymore, Jr., Managing Editor, *Entertainment Weekly*, 1675 Broadway, New York, NY 10019-5895, fax: 212.522.0074, e-mail: letters@ew.com.

Us has 'Double Vision'

In the January 1998 issue of *Us* magazine, writer Stacey D'Erasmus takes an interesting and fresh look at both actress/comedian Ellen DeGeneres and her on-screen persona, Ellen Morgan. In "Double Vision," D'Erasmus explores the differing points at which DeGeneres and Morgan are at in their lives, be they real or TV fiction, and how those differences have caused a "chasm" of perceptions by the media and public.

"While the Morgan story may cause one discomfort, the DeGeneres story causes more," she writes. "It's one thing to aver carefully to Diane Sawyer that, yes, you're gay, tearing up as you explain how hard it can be, but quite another to poach a starlet, fight a

network, and completely overhaul an expensive prime-time sitcom."

Calling Morgan an "ingenue" and "hip lesbian Gidget," D'Erasmus points out that now "everyone in the country who has turned on the TV in the past 10 months can plainly see that you can be a gay adult with a full, complicated life and beautiful lover and a house and even a supportive family, but there will be some places—prime time, for instance—where you have to pretend to be less than that."

She concludes, "Ellen Morgan is showing what it's like to exult in the first blush of grasping your identity. Ellen DeGeneres is showing what it's like to live, day by day, in the gap between who you really are and what the world can stand to know about it."

Besides moving beyond the anti-gay, anti-Ellen rhetoric that often accompanies these types of commentaries, *Us* explores the fraught cultural aspects that both Ellens are caught in. D'Erasmus goes beyond the hype of a frenzied debate on so-called "morality" issues, and looks at the difficult predicament that being gay and being a star holds for Ellen DeGeneres.

Please acknowledge both Stacey D'Erasmus and *Us* magazine for an interesting and intelligent look at the Hollywood milestone that Ellen Morgan and Ellen DeGeneres have become.

Contact: Stacey D'Erasmus, Reporter, and Barbara O'Dair, Editor, *Us* magazine, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10104-0295, fax: 212.767.8204, e-mail: us@us-magazine.com. ▼

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Spectrum, Marin County's rainbow, bright after financial storm

by Ron Lazar

Fifteen years after an optimistic beginning, Spectrum, the multi-purpose gay and lesbian community resource of Marin County, nearly drowned in its own debt this past month. Decisions earlier in the year meant to save money proved to be unwise, as the organization found itself unable to pay its bills. But in a successful eleventh hour — well, eleventh month — fundraising effort, Spectrum's rainbow flag is still flying, and according to its Interim Executive Director, John Kirkley, "a new openness" has emerged.

In contrast with the acrimony that currently clouds the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Kirkley told the B.A.R., "Our board meetings are open, and there is a regular 10-minute slot at the beginning for anybody to address the board if they have a concern."

Far from worried about the spate of money troubles, Kirkley said, "The recent financial difficulties have been a wake-up call to say, 'Okay, we have to be more mindful of how we are leveraging our resources to best meet the needs of the community.'"

Spectrum is truly trying to fulfill its mission without becoming overburdened by administrative costs. Kirkley presented a percentage breakdown of Spectrum's revised budget of about \$300,000 a year. "About 24% [\$72,000] goes

to general and administrative fundraising," he said. "About 76% is for programs. Within the 76%, about 35% of that budget [\$80,000] is for our senior program, 23% [\$52,000] is for our youth program, 15% [\$34,000] is for our volunteer program, about 24% [\$55,000] for men and women's programs, and outreach is about three percent [\$7,000]."

Last week, Spectrum succeeded in its efforts to raise enough money to keep going, when more than the \$30,000 materialized almost entirely through small individual contributions.

Spectrum now returns to its mission statement, to "work collaboratively to address and advocate the emotional, spiritual, and practical concerns of lesbian, gay and bisexual people, and to build a strong lesbian, gay and bisexual community in Marin."

Kirkley, who also provides diversity training for the Novato Police Department, illustrated for the B.A.R. the range of services Spectrum provides. "One measure of a community is how well it takes care of its young and its old," he said, "and that is a big part of our focus. We are also beginning to collaborate with the Marin AIDS Project [which had its start at Spectrum] on doing more extensive HIV prevention work. We have a core of services, as well as peer support and social groups."

"We have a Monday Night at the Movies series featuring gay-

themed and classic films. We have 'Women in Novato,' a monthly recreational group for lesbian and bisexual women, and the 'Languages for Women' group for the whole county. 'Meeting Men in Marin' is a group for men in the middle-age group between youth and seniors.

"We also have a women's writing group that meets here monthly, and a lesbian and gay Al-Anon group that meets every Sunday night. We are setting up a meeting with the Novato Police Department's new liaison to the gay community, Lieutenant Chuck Baker (a straight male), to meet with the gay community."

"So, with staff positions, we are providing social services for youth and seniors, and through our Volunteer Program Coordinator Sherrie Holmes, we are going to begin to recruit, train, and provide support for volunteers in the community who want to start initiatives to provide activities."

A second in a series of community forums will be held February 1, 1998 to explore ideas for a community center. ▼

For more information, write or visit Spectrum at 1000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, San Anselmo CA, or call Interim Executive Director John Kirkley or Volunteer Coordinator Sherrie Holmes at (415) 457-1115.

Alameda teacher cleared in 'Ellen' incident

by Cynthia Laird

Alameda elementary school teacher Victoria Forrester has been cleared of all allegations made against her by a parent over a classroom discussion about the *Ellen* coming out episode last May. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing issued its decision on December 12. Forrester was cleared by the Alameda school district board in October and has remained in the classroom through-

out her ordeal, which became public in July.

The state commission ruled there was insufficient evidence to investigate whether Forrester, who has taught for 13 years, should keep her credential.

On May 1, the day after the historic TV episode aired, students in Forrester's fifth grade class initiated a discussion about the program. One of the students apparently became upset and told her parents, who accused Forrester of violating the state education code by discussing sexuality

without parental permission. The parent, Mike Trelow, is a member of the city's Central Baptist Church, which has long opposed recognition of gay pride month in the island city.

Since the incident unfolded, Forrester has seen a groundswell of support from Alameda's gay community, parents, school administrators, and others. Last month she told the B.A.R. that the most disheartening thing to come of the incident is that her students are now much more careful with what they bring up in class. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Fallon Building not affected

Demolition permits sought for Community Center site

by Cynthia Laird

The Community Center Project (CCP) has submitted two demolition permits for the site of the proposed gay community center, but neither permit is for the historic Fallon Building, which is the subject of meetings to work out a compromise between the CCP board and preservationists.

City Planning Department staff have confirmed that a hold has been placed on both permits, pending the filing of plans and environmental review documents by the CCP. The demolition permits were taken out just two days after a meeting called by Mayor Willie Brown to get both groups talking about possible solutions involving the fate of the Victorian building. The permits involve the 1808 and 1810 Market Street addresses; they are immediately adjacent to the Fallon Building and currently contain a single-story structure and a shed.

A planning department staff person said the two permits were submitted Friday, December 19; she was at a loss to explain why they were taken out when plans have yet to be submitted for a replacement structure, as is the city's policy. She also confirmed that the permits are being held,

and said all of the lots must be looked at together for the project.

Environmental review requirements will depend on plans for the Fallon Building. A full environmental impact report (EIR) would be required if the building is to be torn down; the EIR would not be needed if the Victorian is kept with integrity, the level of which would have to be determined.

Scott Shafer, CCP board member, told the B.A.R. that the demolition permits were routine and filed to keep the project on track.

Both sides now meeting

CCP board members and Friends of 1800 Market Street representatives met for about 90 minutes on December 17; Brown had hastily set up the session when it became clear the controversy would not go away. Tensions have risen steadily since September, when CCP board members voted unanimously to demolish the Victorian for the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Community Center, saying renovation costs would be exorbitant. Since then, preservationists have rallied around the 103-year-old Fallon Building, which escaped the 1906 earthquake and fire that destroyed the opposite side of Market Street. The two

groups plan to meet again January 8, Shafer said.

Both groups said they felt the meeting went well. "We're happy, but concerned," Friends of 1800 Market Street member Tom Mayer told the B.A.R. "We feel it's strange, their [CCP board] objection to landmark [status]."

Jim Siegel, who helped spearhead the drive to save the Fallon Building, has made a formal offer to buy the building. He said the CCP board has until early Febru-

\$1.6 and \$2.6 million. Bahlman said the building could be renovated for approximately \$1.3 million.

"Their figures are based on creating a new building," said Bahlman. "They have this wonderful old building, and they are not willing to treat it as a wonderful old building. They want to make a new building out of it." He added the CCP's expensive estimates are a result of a combination of changes, including foun-

The permits were taken out after a meeting called by Mayor Brown to get both sides talking.

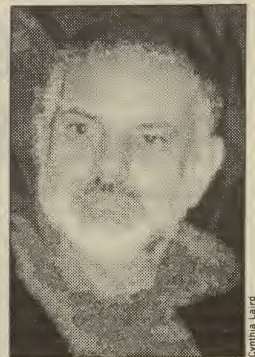
ary to consider selling it to him for \$500,000. The purchase would not include the other lots, which could be used for a more vertical community center, or the board could sell them and relocate the project altogether.

At last week's meeting, David Bahlman, executive director of the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, and his team of preservationist architects and engineers presented their estimates for renovating the Victorian. They are much less than CCP's figures, which are between

dation work, a rooftop deck, relocating the interior staircase, an air conditioning system, exterior siding and thermal-paned windows, and a kitchen.

Barbara French, with the CCP board, said they didn't get into specifics at last week's meeting, but each side got a feel for the other's position. "I feel good about the meeting, and am hopeful we can work together. We made it clear they'll have to compromise, and we'll have to compromise," French told the B.A.R.

The amount of compromising



Tom Mayer

has yet to be determined.

"They need to cut back on their expectations and be content with the rehabilitation of the Victorian structure," Bahlman said of the CCP.

To Bahlman, who said the CCP board approached his organization about three years ago to discuss the Victorian, the present controversy and the rationales being used are somewhat surprising. "One of the reasons for the rooftop deck is that they are afraid that during celebration days, people would jump from the roof of the new building onto the old building, so they want this elaborate roof deck," he said.

"They wanted the building [community center] to function as a town square, and for that reason they want to rehab the Victorian into a modern structure," Bahlman told the B.A.R. "It may be, ideally, an important philosophy, but when the philosophy dictates demolition of a historic building, it must be modified somewhat." ▼

Cynthia Laird

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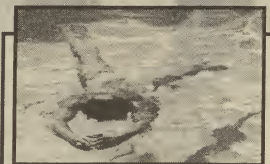


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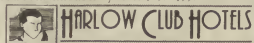
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Charges that Budweiser fermented anti-gay remarks go flat

by Ron Lazar

Anheuser Busch Inc.'s, Los Angeles Budweiser brewing plant has been foaming over the anti-gay treatment of a Budweiser plant employee alleged to have occurred earlier this year. The plaintiff, Tom Martin, asserted in pre-trial depositions that he had been subjected to verbal

abuse on the job, including the repeated use of the words "fag" and "faggot" by other employees and managers.

Recent settlement agreements between the parties prohibit discussing the specifics of the case with the press. The only direct comment available from Budweiser is that the suit has "been settled to the satisfaction of both parties" in a pre-trial phase, according to Roi Ewell, Manager of Public Communication for An-

"Anheuser Busch prides itself on having been a longtime friend of the gay and lesbian community and wants to continue that relationship," says John Duran, an openly gay attorney of the law firm Duran, Loquvam & Robertson, hired by Anheuser Busch to provide legal representation on the case.

Public Communications Manager Ewell told the B.A.R. that the manager in question accused of anti-gay remarks, former Human

workplace. A couple of things with the Martin situation, the company's been put at a terrible disadvantage. We've never had the opportunity to address these things directly. A charge was filed, and we've never had the opportunity as a company to see if there was any direct unfavorable discussions towards anyone."

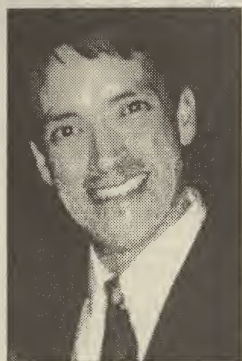
Ewell seemed genuinely concerned while explaining Anheuser Busch's position, saying, "It's very unfortunate that this evolved the way it did, because it's not reflective of our relationship with the gay community, or our degree of involvement in terms of sponsorship. Our action is really to make the matter go away because of how much we value our relationship with the gay community."

"We've been a longtime friend, particularly Bud and Bud Lite, of the gay community, and that's been our primary concern. Not because it's a passive engagement. We believe in the marketplace, and we acted quickly to the satisfaction of both parties to make this matter go away. Now, the residual of the allegations is what we're still dealing with."

This Bud's for you — soon for your domestic partner, too

Attorney Duran announced that Anheuser Busch "has been considering for the past two years the adoption of domestic partnership policies, but it involves a lot of complex issues around their union negotiations with the Teamsters and tax issues, but it's something that they are looking at. That is one of the reasons they brought our firm on board, to help advise them in these areas. They are looking to adopting progressive policies with respect to the gay and lesbian community."

Duran also announced the company's decision to include



Attorney John Duran

language in the corporate policy specifically to protect sexual orientation from harassment in the workplace. Duran states "they are going to be adding the words 'sexual orientation' to their non-discrimination policy nationwide, to cover all of their employees across the country."

Ewell told the B.A.R. "We don't discriminate, period, as in practice. But to have that policy statement is what we need to be able to communicate, and we're prepared to do that. And when we do that, I won't say if but when we do that, we will make sure, like we do with any other policy update, revision, or addendum: we do a mailing to all employees, every one. Within Anheuser Busch you won't have to lobby. We'll do what's right. If anything, this incident has been insightful in moving the thought process forward."

Duran elaborated, "Any gay or lesbian employee who believes they are being harassed in the workplace should report what is going on in writing to their supervisor, so that a record begins to be created." ▼

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"We've been a longtime friend, particularly Bud and Bud Lite, of the gay community."
— Public Communications Manager Roi Ewell

heuser Busch.

However, the incident has nonetheless brought the issue to a head at Anheuser Busch, the famously gay-friendly beer manufacturer that contributes tens of thousands of dollars to gay pride parades and a host of other activities in the gay community. The beer maker found itself working hard to keep a potentially rancorous head of lather from spilling over and soaking the profits it enjoys from its saturation of gay bars across the country.

Resource Manager Bob Warner, "has separated from the company."

"His separation," he added, "we still strongly assert, had nothing to do with [the allegations]."

Ewell is anxious to respond to extremely hostile reports that are flashing across the Internet news-groups that exclaim "Boycott Budweiser!!" Ewell counters, "There was some misinterpretation of the company's interpretation of the California Legislation Labor Code 1102.1, which protects sexual orientation in the



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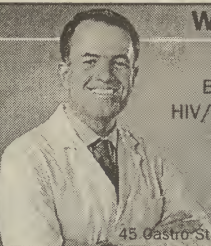
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Muni bashing

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wouldn't make room for her to exit.

When the bus was in motion, Gervais turned to the young man carrying the boom box, who was pressed up against her, and asked, "Could you please turn down the boom-box radio? We're all a captive audience here, and unless you let me get off, I'd like you to just turn it down."

The man's reply, which she later wrote down from memory, stunned her. "No, bitch! Go fuck yourself, bitch! Where you from, Texas? You a dyke bitch? What the fuck are you? You a guy or a girl? You from Texas, bitch? You a Texas dyke?"

'I would like to get off'

After the young man's outburst, Gervais tried to squeeze through the gang to get to the exit door. "I would like to get off," she said to those barring her way. "Let me by."

But instead, in Gervais's written account and comments to police, the youths, ranging in age from 12 to 19, started chanting rap-style: "We can do what we want," and "We can say what we want."

The man with the boom box and his woman companion took swings at Gervais. Immediately, several of the kids grabbed Gervais from behind and proceeded to punch and kick her in the face, breasts, and abdomen, and repeatedly kneed her in the groin.

"They thought I was a dude in a dress," Gervais said.

The youths knocked off Gervais's hat and stomped on it, then grabbed at her medicine bag and jewelry and tried to remove them, succeeding in stealing two of her rings. They scratched and clawed at her face, and one of them tried to gouge out her eye, sticking a finger in the socket and up under the eyeball. They knocked her to the floor and one held her there while another punched and kicked her, butted foreheads with her, and twisted her head. They called her "a Texas queer," and "Texas cocksucker."

Gervais estimates the assault lasted about four to six minutes.

Although trained in self-defense, Gervais refused to strike back at her attackers, feeling it improper for an adult to strike a child; at the time, she did not know the older attackers were legally adults.

"I yelled for help," Gervais said. "Hey, get off me! Driver!" Other passengers yelled, "Fight in the back!" But no-one attempted to interfere directly or offer assistance. The driver, Vincent Turnipseed, did call the police, and at the next bus stop he told everyone to get off. All but two of the assailants fled, some of them by climbing out rear windows, but Gervais, who had managed to get back on her feet, grasped onto two opposite handrails and barricaded the aisle with her 220-pound frame, holding her two principal attackers in check until the police arrived and boarded the bus.

Not a hate crime

Upon entering the bus and seeing Gervais with a bloody face and possibly a broken jaw, the police radioed for an ambulance, then arrested Gervais's trapped attackers, whom they identified as Lamarr D. McCoy of San Francisco and Trinetta M. Pinson of Marin City. Both are 19-year-olds.

The two suspects were taken into custody and are being held in the San Bruno County Jail, in lieu

of \$15,000 bail each. The two are to be arraigned at the Hall of Justice on January 9 in Dept. 11, Room 322.

While the SFPD has charged McCoy and Pinson with felony assault and battery, the department has so far declined to treat the incident as a hate crime, barring any new evidence that the perpetrators uttered homophobic remarks during the attack. Without such corroboration by witnesses, the attack cannot legally be classified as a hate crime, which would carry stiffer penalties.

Unfortunately, all but one of the bus passengers left the scene before the police arrived, so they could not be questioned. The one remaining witness confirmed details of the physical assault on Gervais, but made no mention of verbal assaults.

Bus driver Turnipseed told police he saw nothing and heard only that a fight was going on in the back of his vehicle.

A third witness had observed

To Gervais's horror, the hatred she experienced did not end with the assault on the bus. Yvette Stevens, a dispatcher at Muni's Presidio Division, said, "I can tell why you were attacked. You deserved it, bitch!"

the fray only from outside the bus. She heard screaming aboard the bus, and saw the vehicle rocking.

The police report on the incident refers specifically to only one verbal slur. It says Gervais told them the attackers had called her "a freak from Texas." The report does indicate, however, that Gervais told them McCoy, among others, "became verbally abusive towards her and was insulting her."

Gervais says that the police incident report misquotes her, that in fact what she told the cops, in the approximately 90 seconds they spent talking to her before an ambulance whisked her away, was that the kids had called her "a Texas queer." She insists she never used the phrase "a freak from Texas" in speaking with police.

Gervais herself has no doubt the assault was motivated by hatred for "queer" people: "Why would they [the attackers] think I'm a threat to them, other than that I'm a genderfuck?"

So far, at least, the case has not been turned over to the SFPD's Hate Crimes Unit, which would more aggressively investigate the incident.

In the view of Community United Against Violence, the non-profit organization monitoring attacks against lesbians and gays, the assault on Gervais is "definitely a hate crime." The organization is taking the matter up with the SFPD and the District Attorney's office.

Multiple wounds and injuries

Once the ambulance attendants strapped Gervais to a board, suspecting she had spinal and neck injuries, they whisked her away to the emergency room of St. Francis Hospital.

As a result of the attack, Gervais had incurred multiple wounds and contusions around her head, face, throat, stomach, and groin. She had a dislocated shoulder, a dislocated lower jaw, a sprained neck, and an injured eye, among other wounds. She could barely walk, or raise or turn her head. She felt she might have a fractured rib. Because of the trauma to her stomach and intestines, she experienced extreme nausea, and vomited in the emergency



The alleged attackers: Lamarr D. McCoy and Trinetta M. Pinson.

room.

To Gervais's horror, the hatred she experienced did not end with the assault on the bus. According to her, it continued from Muni itself.

By the time Gervais returned to the home of her lover on the

sion. According to Gervais (who, on several occasions in person and in telephone conversations with the B.A.R., came across as polite, reasonably calm, and detailed in her recollections), after describing the assault to Stevens and asking how Muni would pur-

sue the matter, Stevens cut her off short and yelled at her, "I can tell why you were attacked. You deserved it, bitch!"

Stevens then allegedly hung up on Gervais. On three more occasions, Gervais tried to speak with Stevens. Each time, she says, Stevens hung up on her.

Not until the following Monday did Gervais find a sympathet-

ic car at Muni, she said. She contacted Randall Camacho of Muni's Presidio Division, who promised to look into the attack incident, and Superintendent Samuel Garcia of the Presidio Division, who promised to look into the Stevens matter.

"Mr. Garcia was very nice to me," says Gervais.

When contacted by the Bay Area Reporter, Muni spokesperson Alan Siegel could give no further details about what actions were being taken either in investigating the assault or disciplining Stevens. Siegel said only that Muni was looking into the matter.

'Dignity is my own'

For Rosanne Ellen Gervais, what should have been a joyous visit to San Francisco, far from her native land, has turned out to be a journey into hell. She can no longer board and ride a bus, trolley, or cable car without feeling dread. She experiences panic attacks, hyperventilation, and night sweats. Yet in the face of all this, she remains stoic, drawing on her Native American beliefs for sustenance.

As a woman, Canadian tourist, Micmac, and lesbian, she wrote in her journal of the affair, "I'm traveling a Red spirit path on this turtle continent that began long before many other nations or people arrived here. The dignity of my walk is my own. The grace with which I held my anger and pain in check whilst the children broke my skin is my own."

The question uppermost in her mind, Gervais mused, is how the African-American parents of her attackers must feel, realizing their children "have bludgeoned another brow-beaten minority." ▼

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You've got a same-sex date for the office party ... what now?

by Laura Brown

With Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the Winter Solstice, and New Year's Eve upon us, 'tis the season for shopping, socializing, and the inevitable — and sometimes forgettable — office holiday party. For gays and lesbians, the question of whether to bring a same-sex date to the office party cuts to the heart of issues of employment discrimination and personal comfort levels, and has become increasingly politicized.

According to the conservative *Washington Times*, Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) said he would only allow the nomination of James Hormel, the openly gay San Francisco philanthropist, as ambassador to Luxembourg to pass the senate Foreign Relations Committee on the condition that Hormel not bring any same-sex partners to ambassadorial functions.

Helms's implied standard — that being gay must be hidden from public view — is mirrored in the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and no doubt in attitudes at numerous companies across the country. And without federal or state laws forbidding employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, something as seemingly innocuous as a holiday office party could

cost you your job.

Faced with such potentially serious consequences, as well as personal issues about being out, gay and lesbian employees must carefully weigh their options: bring a same-sex partner or date to the party, bring a partner but don't introduce them as such, bring an opposite-sex "cover" date, go alone, or don't go at all.

From 'safety' to 'nightmares'

David Hardy, a financial management specialist with the federal Health Care Finance Administration, said he's been choosing the first option for the last 15 years.

"I've worked for the same government agency for 25 years, and at this point we just have a mid-day luncheon, but I've taken dates to parties for years without any problems," he said. "If anyone is uncomfortable, we just ignore them."

A founder of Greater Atlanta Federal GLOBE, a group for gay and lesbian federal employees, Hardy described his office atmosphere as "very safe." While it's not the law, "very few government agencies have not added sexual orientation [to their non-discrimination policies]," he said.

Although these policies were not in place when Hardy first began bringing a male date to office functions, he said he felt com-

fortable with fellow employees, and advised others to use a similar approach for handling the holiday date problem.

"I had been working with essentially the same group of people for 15 years, and while it may not have been a topic of office conversation, at that point no one was surprised for me to show up with a same-sex partner," he said. "We may have been blazing trails, but we were so comfortable we didn't realize it."

"Your own level of comfort with your date will be reflected in people's reactions to you, so be confident," he advised. "Go ahead and do it. Carry it off like it's the most natural thing on earth. Be genteel and civilized about the whole process, and don't lower yourself to anyone's standards."

Still, other government employees said they feel far less safe. An employee of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents called the *Southern Voice* in Atlanta to report that "a directive had come down" from office party organizers that no gay couples could attend a large division party held December 6. Gay employees were "petrified and furious," said the caller, who described the office climate as "terribly homophobic" and "a nightmare." The caller was so afraid of being fired that they refused to let even their gender be identified.

While *Southern Voice* could

not reach party organizers to confirm the details of the story, the caller's fears may be well-founded. Unlike California and TK other states, it is currently completely legal in Georgia to fire someone for being gay; Georgia Equality Project Executive Director Cindy Abel estimated it will be 1999 at the earliest before a statewide employment non-discrimination act would have a viable chance of passing the state legislature.

The national Employment Non-Discrimination Act was defeated in the U.S. Senate last year by a single vote. It will be reintroduced in 1998, with a better chance of passage in the Senate than in the more conservative House of Representatives.

A range of experiences

Most gays and lesbians' experiences with holiday office parties fall somewhere between the "absolute comfort" Hardy experienced and the "horrible nightmare" the Board of Regents' employee described.

Debra Sweezy and Bridget Lyons, approaching their first Christmas as a couple, said they will attend holiday parties at both of their employers, but they have different strategies for each.

Sweezy, who is just beginning a new job as an assistant director of a day-care facility, said Lyons will go with her to her new employer's holiday party. "I think at first I'm going to introduce her as my roommate, and then when I've been there for a while and have a feeling about the comfort level and safety, I may introduce her as my partner or girlfriend. She's such a big part of my life that I want to include her, but I want to safely include her," Sweezy said.

The couple attended the "swank" holiday party thrown by Lyons' employer, a research company that contracts with the Centers For Disease Control. Lyons said she introduced Sweezy as her partner, and both felt comfortable with the decision.

"I feel very comfortable with it because I've met everybody, and everybody knows who I am," Sweezy said. "There's no hiding it."

The company has an inclusive non-discrimination policy and offers benefits to same-sex partners and their children, Lyons said. "If they didn't, I still would have introduced her as my girlfriend, but I may have been less quick to do it."

While they have different plans for different parties, both Lyons and Sweezy said the holiday date dilemma hasn't created tension between them, because they discussed both situations and made decisions together. "I think I am the one who suggested she just introduce me as her roommate this year," Lyons said. "I didn't want to put her in a difficult situation."

Sensitive situations

Those in jobs which call to mind stereotypes of gay men and lesbians may feel particularly vulnerable about revealing their sexual orientation by bringing a same-sex date to the office holiday party. "My own opinion is, I think men working with children are seen differently from females who might be gay working with chil-

dren," said Danny Cain, a former DeKalb County second grade teacher who now works as a psychotherapist. "We're seen as a greater risk."

As far as the holiday date dilemma, "I will be taking my [male] partner to my office party this year, and that is totally different from last year when I was teaching," Cain said. "I didn't attend any school-related social functions, because I was afraid of being asked those kinds of questions that people feel more free to ask in social settings: Do you have a wife? Who are you seeing? Do you have a girlfriend?"

Cain said he decided to avoid the situation altogether rather than deny the existence of his partner of six years. "The reason I chose not to go either with him or without him is I didn't want to be faced with those questions, because how do you handle it? Do you lie or smile politely and not respond?"

DeKalb County schools do not have a non-discrimination policy which includes sexual orientation, he said, and "the feeling is that it's okay if you are [gay], just don't show it in any way, because then parents might find out and it would be an issue."

Although his new employer, an outpatient mental health facility, also does not have a written policy, Cain is more at ease bringing his partner along. "We're about to go to the office Christmas party, [and] I feel completely safe and comfortable," he said. "Here, I'm seen as an asset to the diversity of the company."

Cain and his partner, like Sweezy and Lyons, also have different approaches to each other's holiday party, but Cain said the issue hasn't created tension between them. The couple will attend only Cain's office party this year. "He was comfortable not going when I was teaching, and he works for a company that is more conservative than the one I work for now, so my going to his holiday party is not as much a possibility," he explained.

Becky England, a library media specialist in an Atlanta-area public school, said she will not bring her partner to her school's holiday party, but only because nobody else will, either.

"The school where I am now just has an after-school party, so no-one brings a spouse or partner. But I brought my partner at the school where I worked before, and it was fine."

If her current school did have an evening party, England said she would bring her partner because she has discussed her at work. "I don't think people would be that uncomfortable, given the degree to which I have spoken openly about her. I have called her my partner as such, but I talk about Trisha, and they know who Trisha is. I know my principal was supportive, and it's important to know the climate in your school, and the attitudes of administration and faculty."

How to decide

When deciding whether to bring a same-sex partner or date to the office holiday party, "there are a couple of issues to consider," said Barbara J. Rubin, Psy. D., a licensed psychologist specializing

next page ►

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HOLIDAY SURVIVAL

Got the blues this winter? You may be feeling SAD

by Mark Mardon

In the depth of the winter in Northern California, Mother Nature rations sunlight, and hundreds, if not thousands of people fall into a dark funk. At work, they can't focus or make decisions. They crave carbohydrates, but take little pleasure from eating. Their sleep patterns go awry. Nothing seems fun; they shrug off hobbies, friends, entertainment, even sex. In extreme cases, they contemplate suicide.

What these people may be experiencing is Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, one of the more common medical ailments during northern winters, along with the common cold. It's a cyclical disorder, the onset of which begins with the shortening days of autumn, and the effects of which may linger until spring.

"It's a terrible time for vulnerable people, those struggling with illness, who have lost something or someone from their lives," said Eve Meyer, executive director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention, Inc., which operates a 24-hour telephone Crisis Line at (415) 781-0500. "It's a time when the contrast between happiness and unhappiness may be most acute."

Holiday stresses can exacerbate SAD's symptoms, if not directly cause them. Serial parties from Halloween through New Year's

and beyond may be nice for making friends, but free-flowing alcohol and drugs exact a toll. Stimulants lift people up, depressants toss them down, and casualties litter the cultural landscape.

Light deprivation

If researchers looking into seasonal depression are correct, however, the overarching cause of SAD is not excess, it's deprivation. People simply don't get the light stimulation their brains and bodies need to function at their physical and mental norm, much less at their best.

Various theories have been put forth about the exact nature of SAD and the ways light affects people's moods. Some research indicates that in certain individuals, insufficient light on the eye's retina causes or contributes to a decrease in the brain chemical serotonin, which is a sort of natural Prozac. That would account for carbohydrate craving, since carbs help boost the body's serotonin levels.

Similarly, a lack of strong morning light may contribute to the body's inability at night, during sleep, to produce proper levels of the hormone melatonin. A chemical imbalance could result, leading to depression.

But whatever SAD's cause, in most cases its primary treatment involves simply getting more light, whether natural or artificial.

To get SAD people feeling bright and cheerful (or at least to lift them out of the blahs), therapists recommend a variety of solutions, ranging from taking regular strolls in the morning sun when weather permits, to undergoing "bright-light therapy" when skies are overcast and spirits bleak. The latter treatment involves sitting near a strong artificial light source, typically a fluorescent-light box, for a period of time each morning, usually half an hour at the breakfast table. Significantly, researchers have found no difference in the effectiveness of either approach.

Morning strolls are, of course, free, and help get the blood flowing. Getting sunlight this way is the ideal solution. It also helps to live in homes that allow in lots of natural sunlight.

Light boxes can do wonders, too, but good ones cost \$500 to \$600. Therapists stress such boxes are best manufactured by professionals to meet certain specifications. They should simulate outdoor light while not overheating, buzzing, emitting high levels of ultraviolet light, sapping unnecessary energy, or discharging painfully intense rays. Rather than asking a lighting-store salesperson for advice on light boxes, or attempting to construct a homemade one, people with SAD are advised to consult with a therapist about where to obtain the proper

box.

Before diagnosing yourself as a SAD victim, beware that the symptoms you're experiencing may be part of a more serious "major depressive disorder," which light alone may do little to alleviate. It's wise to consult a therapist to determine whether the problem is really SAD, and to decide how best to cope with it.

People who get plenty of light but still feel down might also try other ways of reducing the feelings of isolation and claustrophobia.

that become common during winter, authorities say. They suggest SAD victims get massages, exercise at the gym or in the home, consume only moderate amounts of wine or beer, eat light foods, and change their surroundings.

Meyer of S.F. Suicide Prevention also suggests, "Find people to be with who care for you. Help someone else. Keep an eye out on them." By helping others, she said, people with SAD help themselves. ▼

Same-sex date

◀ previous page

in individual and couple's therapy for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community.

"First, there is the real or perceived workplace risk. Given that we have no legislation forbidding job discrimination, people need to really pay close attention to their company's explicit policies and corporate climate," she said. "It also brings up issues of a lot of the community still being comfortable with being invisible in our lives, our families, and our community, and that spills over into the workplace."

"As a psychologist, you want people to work towards consistency between their actions and

their value system," Rubin said. "If you're comfortable being out, why not do it at the holiday party, where everyone else will be bringing partners and dates?"

As far as couples who might have different feelings about being out, "the time of the party is not the time to sort out interpersonal issues," she said. "You need to consider what does it mean to leave the partner at home? Does it devalue the relationship? Some people would say that it doesn't, while some people would say that it really does."

The holiday date dilemma can also be used as a positive opportunity for couples to grow, Rubin concluded. "It can cause conflict, but it can also be used as an occasion for partners to sort out what being in a relationship really means to them." ▼

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Equal opportunity killer: HIV & women

by Marcos E. Garcia-Ojeda, ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool

It all began with the gay cancer. Heterosexuals felt safe because they thought that HIV and AIDS were a disease of gay men. As prevalent as that line of thought might be, it is far from the truth. Heterosexual transmission is the dominant mode of infection for women in the growing worldwide epidemic of HIV. This is not only true in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the rate of infected women equals or surpasses that of men, but also here in the U.S. In fact, women represent the fastest-growing segment of the population acquiring HIV infection in America, where from 1990 to 1994, AIDS in women increased by 89%, versus 29% in men.

In 1995, there were an average of 8,500 daily new cases of HIV infection worldwide, and 40% of those occurred in women. Studies of international AIDS research showed that more women between the ages of 13-25 are being infected than women in other age groups, that women are infected at a much younger age than men, and that in developing countries, as many or more women are infected as men. These are alarming statistics.

Closer to home, it is estimated that there are between 107,000 and 150,000 women infected with HIV in the U.S., mostly infected by heterosexual exposure or through injection drug use. However, statistics show that in 1995, heterosexual exposure had far surpassed injection drug use as the mode of infection for U.S. women with AIDS. This indicates that all sexually active woman (in-

cluding pregnant women) should be considered at risk for HIV infection, and should be counseled about HIV testing and prevention.

In many cities and states, HIV infection is the leading cause of death for women 25 to 44 years old, AIDS being the six most common cause of death for white women in that same age group and the leading cause of death among African-American women in that age group since the beginning of the 1990s. In the U.S., most of the HIV epidemic in women has developed in women of color, 57% in black women, and 20% in Latinas. Although the incidence of infection has declined in white males, rates in women continue to increase, with the greatest rise in African-

women of child-bearing age have special needs. For example, Kaposi's sarcoma occurs less frequently in HIV+ women, whereas esophageal candidiasis (candida infection in the esophagus) and herpes simplex virus (HSV, genital herpes) infection occur at a higher rate in women than in men.

Gynecologic problems are a major issue for HIV+ women. Studies like the WIHS (Women's Interagency HIV Study) and HERS (HIV Epidemiology Research Study) suggest that HIV-infected women experience a higher incidence of vaginal candidiasis (yeast infections), genital herpes, pelvic inflammatory disease, menstrual abnormalities, human papillomavirus infection (HPV, the agent that causes genital

warts), and cervical cancer when compared with HIV- women. These studies suggest that routine gynecological assessment should be administered for all HIV+ women. Women with HIV have a three- to eight-fold higher incidence of genital HPV infection and cervical cancer. The evaluation and treatment of cervical cancer should suit the woman's particular needs, but a panel of experts have suggested the following schedule: First, Papanicolaou's (Pap) smears should be per-

Concerns in pregnancy

Medical studies has shown that pregnancy has no adverse effects in HIV disease, but HIV+ women have to worry about viral transmission to the fetus, as infants might be infected during pregnancy, during birth, or through breast-feeding. Maternal viral load has been identified as a factor that influences mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Current guidelines to prevent

sued guidelines on the use of combination therapy in HIV-infected adults, where they stipulated that despite the lack of clinical data, antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy should generally be the same as those for non-pregnant adults (i.e. triple combination therapy). These recommendations were reached under the belief that therapies of known benefit to women should not be withheld during pregnancy unless there are known adverse effects on the mother, the fetus or infant that outweigh the potential benefit to the woman.

HIV disease in women is compounded by the numerous social factors that affect them: poverty, caretaking responsibilities, and economic dependence, as well as poor access to and utilization of health care and experimental drug trials. The manifestations of HIV in women are poorly understood, particularly concerning pregnancy. HIV+ women should discuss their particular needs with their physicians to develop a comprehensive evaluation of their condition. ▼

Selected reading and references:

1. Anastos, K., R. Denenberg, and L. Solomon. 1997. Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Women. *Medical Clinics of North America* 81:533-553.
2. Khalsa, A.M., and J. Currier. 1997. Women and HIV: A Review of Current Epidemiology, Gynecologic Manifestations, and Perinatal Transmission. *Primary Care* 24:617-641.
3. Wright, S.W., and R.A. Johnson. 1997. Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Women: Mucocutaneous Manifestations. *Clinics in Dermatology* 15:93-111.

There are subtle differences in disease expression between men and women, and gynecologic problems are a major issue for HIV+ women.

American women, whose rates are almost equal to the infection rates in white males.

The course of HIV disease in women does not differ significantly from that of men. Both genders are at equal rates of acquiring opportunistic infections (OI), and in both men and women, the CD4 count is the most crucial factor to predict risk for OI acquisition. Women are equally responsive to anti-viral therapy as men. Nonetheless, there are subtle differences in disease expression, and HIV+

women of child-bearing age have special needs. For example, Kaposi's sarcoma occurs less frequently in HIV+ women, whereas esophageal candidiasis (candida infection in the esophagus) and herpes simplex virus (HSV, genital herpes) infection occur at a higher rate in women than in men.

Gynecologic problems are a major issue for HIV+ women. Studies like the WIHS (Women's Interagency HIV Study) and HERS (HIV Epidemiology Research Study) suggest that HIV-infected women experience a higher incidence of vaginal candidiasis (yeast infections), genital herpes, pelvic inflammatory disease, menstrual abnormalities, human papillomavirus infection (HPV, the agent that causes genital

mother-to-child transmission include Zidovudine treatment during the second and third trimester, administration of intravenous Zidovudine during delivery, and oral Zidovudine treatment to the newborn for six weeks within 8-12 hours of birth. However, combination therapy has been shown to be far superior to monotherapy for the treatment of HIV, but there are no tested guidelines for the use of combination therapy during pregnancy.

Last June, two panels (one by the National Institute of Health, and the other from the Dept. of Health and Human Services) is-

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PWA grievances

◀ page 1

Petrelis, whose services were restricted in September by the HIV Services Partnership (San Francisco AIDS Foundation, AIDS Health Project, and Shanti), prompted the supervisors' inquiry, as did calls for accountability on the part of AIDS service organizations (ASOs). Petrelis had a difficult time finding someone to advocate on his behalf, and finally participated in mediation conducted by the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

"That one situation may have highlighted the problem, but it served as a warning call," Katz said.

Grievance procedures 'required'

In his response to the board, Dr. Katz stated that the AIDS Office "requires that all contractors have written grievance procedures in place, and that these policies meet minimum standards developed by the AIDS Office." He went on to state that these minimum standards were developed in consultation with the Lesbian, Gay, and AIDS Unit of the Human Rights Commission, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Volunteer Legal Services of the San Francisco Bar Association, and Patient's Advocates. Among the eight minimum standards, however, there is no due process for any type of

hearing before the restrictions or suspensions go into effect.

The supervisors also asked Dr. Katz to recommend a uniform, system-wide DPH policy that includes a due process review by DPH before a client's services are suspended or restricted, and advance notice given to the client that this action may occur. Neither of those items are addressed in Dr. Katz's response; he did, however, note that the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council "is currently discussing the possibility of establishing a CARE-funded ombudsperson service." The council overwhelmingly approved the concept of such a position at their December 15 meeting, and will be developing specifics next month.

Supervisor Katz told the B.A.R. that while she supports Ammi-ano's proposed "sunshine resolution" for nonprofit organizations, she will be working toward developing guidelines for the DPH grievance process. "It's not enough to just open up records [of nonprofit service agencies]; it is absolutely essential to come up with uniform procedures to meet the needs of the clients, the nonprofits, and the city," she said. "I don't think coming up with guidelines will be that onerous."

The supervisor said she'll begin following up work with the DPH to get the rest of the information from administrators, and to begin developing her proposals next month. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Transgender Health Project presents preliminary results

by Liz Highleyman

The Department of Public Health's Transgender Community Health Project (TCHP) presented preliminary findings last week to the HIV Prevention Planning Council and to members of collaborating community agencies.

Co-coordinator Scott Ikeda described the goal and the design of the project. The purpose of the TCHP study was to determine the HIV seroprevalence rate, risk behaviors, and health-related and other needs of the city's transgendered population. The study defined "transgender" broadly as an umbrella term that included transsexuals, cross-dressers, third gender, and intersex people.

TCHP began collecting data this summer, and will continue until the end of December. Five members of the transgender community were hired as peer interviewers and received extensive training. Participants were recruited through community agencies, social venues, street outreach, and flyers. In addition to conducting interviews, the TCHP staff also researched trans-sensitive health and social services, prepared educational and resource materials, and conducted in-service trainings for agencies.

So far, TCHP has completed interviews with over 450 participants on their way to a projected 500. TCHP co-coordinator Rob Guzman gave a demographic breakdown of the population. Thirty-six percent of the population surveyed to date are white, 25% are African-American, 21%

are Latina/o, 8% are Asian/Pacific Islander, 6% are Native American, and 4% are "other." Interviewer Doan Thai said that he believes the number of Asians in the study is disproportionately small compared to their numbers in the transgender population as a whole, and suggested that language and cultural barriers, undocumented immigrant status, and fear of HIV testing may have had more of an impact in this group. TCHP conducted interviews in English, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, and sign language.

The age range of participants was 18 to 67 years old. The HIV seroprevalence in the population overall was 29%. There is not yet enough data to break down seroprevalence rates for male-to-females (MTF) and female-to-males (FTM), but it appears that a large majority of the HIV cases are among MTFs. The study has so far surveyed 73% MTFs and 25% FTMs. The number of FTMs will likely increase due to a last minute push to recruit more transmen into the study. Project director Kristen Clements emphasized that results are preliminary, pending the completion of interviews and the analysis of data.

Describing the success of the project's peer-based approach, interviewer Nashanta Stanley said, "What really got people to participate is that they saw their faces during the interviews." Stanley stated that many of the participants were "in crisis" and had priority issues that were not related to HIV (for example, homelessness, substance use, and mental health concerns). Prior to the

study, many had little information about and had not accessed health and social services. Stanley concluded that the TCHP staff was limited in their role, and that is was "frustrating" not to be able to provide more direct assistance to participants.

Black market hormones

Nikki Calma discussed her work with transgendered women at the Motherlode bar in the Tenderloin. Many of these women are sex workers, and they often use stimulant drugs such as speed and cocaine as well as black market hormones, which may involve needle-sharing. HIV testing is a "big issue" for these women, said Calma, because legal penalties are higher if a person who knows they are HIV-positive engages in prostitution.

Interviewer Carla Clynes described her work with the Latina/o population, which was accomplished by outreach in bars, homes, and "under the bridges." As with the Tenderloin population, many Latina transgendered women are sex workers and use drugs. Many were hesitant to take an HIV test for fear of disclosure of results within their community. Like Stanley, Clynes expressed the desire to provide more services for participants. "We have planted seeds," she said, "and we wish to see them grow."

Matt Rice discussed his work with the FTM community. "Although some insist that FTMs do not exist or are not at risk," said Rice, "this has not been our experience." He emphasized that many FTMs do not practice safer sex for a variety of reasons, in

part because "nothing fits" anatomically, and in part because "there are already too many barriers to intimacy" for many transmen. Gay-identified FTMs may confine themselves to anonymous public sex where they "just do others and don't have to take off their pants," while heterosexually-identified FTMs typically don't feel that they are at risk for HIV. Rice described a pamphlet developed by TCHP entitled "Transprotection," which provides information that is both "anatomically appropriate" and validates transgender identities.

In addition, referral coordinator Ari Bachrach developed a resource guide called "Transservices" that provides information about trans-sensitive health and social services such as shelters, medical clinics, drug treatment programs, needle exchanges, transgender community organizations, and social support. According to Bachrach, the guide is updated regularly, since services tend to turn over rapidly.

As final data analysis is done,



Nikki Calma

further information will become available, including information that was collected about sex reassignment surgery. According to Rice, "Almost everyone wanted surgery, but relatively few had had it," largely due to lack of access (especially financial access). Clements noted that the TCHP team was available to present more detailed information to agencies that serve the transgender community, or who wish to educate themselves about the transgender population. ▼

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Health board reverses stance, TG city workers to be on par

Team effort credited in success

by Cynthia Laird

Apparently, the second time's a charm, at least for city employees who are transgendered; the Health Services System Board (HSSB), which oversees the implementation of the city's employee health insurance program, voted 5-1 Thursday, December 18 to remove exclusionary language pertaining to sex reassignment surgery from health plans. The two-hour meeting was held specifically to address the issue of removing the exclusionary language after a similar effort fell short in November.

The board's reversal came after proponents talked with board members individually and further discussed the matter throughout the month. At the November 20 meeting, HSSB members voted 5-2 against removing exclusionary language, despite a thorough presentation by the city's Human

Rights Commission (HRC), physicians, psychiatrists, and other professionals. A detailed report prepared by the HRC was also presented, stating the commission's belief that the city may be discriminating against its employees by such exclusions. Proponents said the discrimination argument helped sway the board.

"We're very pleased with the decision. It's not so much an extension of coverage as a lifting of specific exclusions," said Russell Hilkene, the former HRC intern who spearheaded the change. "We framed it as a discrimination issue." Offering benefits to domestic partners of city workers was cited as an example, since arguments for that policy were presented as an equal pay issue. Hilkene told the B.A.R. that a similar strategy was used this time. "We saw this as an equal pay issue, too."

Robert Haaland, an aide to Supervisor Jose Medina and an out FTM (female to male), credited

Medina, fellow Supervisors Tom Ammann and Susan Leal, the board's representative on the HSSB; the mayor's office; HRC staff; and Hilkene, who successfully brought together a coalition of transgendered people to push for the change.

"My feeling, as a new [city] employee, is that it profoundly affects my access to healthcare generally," he said. "The question of whether I want surgery or not is separate from my access to healthcare."

Haaland is one of 13 transgender city workers out of a workforce of 27,000 who have been identified by HRC staff. Questions surrounding the cost of providing benefits related to transitioning—including hormone therapy and surgery—were an initial stumbling block for the HSSB, several people told the B.A.R. Costs related to sex reassignment vary widely and can be from between \$7,000 to \$36,000 for male-to-female (MTF) indi-

page 24 ►

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Garrett Marshall Stack III
Dec. 4, 1948 - Dec. 19, 1997

life up until the end.

Our dear friend, lover and son Garrett died peacefully at home in San Francisco. He was diagnosed with AIDS in 1981 and was given six months to live. He beat all the odds and had a rich, full life up until the end.

Garrett was born in Connecticut but grew up in many states. He found his way to San Francisco in the wild '70s and worked as a chef, waiter and bartender. He was a gifted artist with an amazing imagination. You could always find him on Gay Pride Day and Halloween dressed in wondrous, primitive costumes. His photo graces the back cover of *RESEARCH: Modern Primitives*.

After his diagnosis, Garrett moved to Laytonville in Mendocino County to challenge himself. He loved being in the country - he loved his garden, nature and animals. After some years spent in

Guerneville, Willits and Laytonville again, he returned to San Francisco.

Garrett was truly a remarkable man. He possessed a brilliance and a depth of spirit that were a joy to be near. He has touched and enriched the lives of many, many people, and though we will miss him, we feel truly blessed for having known him.

Garrett is survived by his sweet mother, Polly, and his brothers, Peter (Dead Marilyn to you), Taylor and Rolie. He met Alan Scopp in 1982 and began a love affair that will last forever. He also leaves behind his dear friends - Queue, Minda, Ron, Elaine, Jinny and Ross - as well as his extended family in Laytonville.

Special thanks to all of Garrett's loving doctors, especially Alison LaVoy and Scott Eberle.

Garrett's friends will bring his ashes up to Don and Rosie's in the spring to be scattered. In lieu of flowers, we have started a fund to help secure Polly's future. For details, call Alan at (415) 552-1294.

Garrett will live in our hearts forever. Merry Christmas and good-bye, my honey.

Amnesty International takes baby step to help gays worldwide

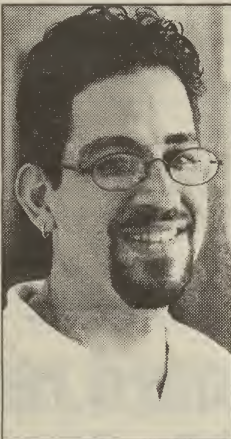
by Mark Mardon

While being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender in the United States has never been a breeze, compared to the onerous conditions endured by queers in many other nations, it's almost heaven. Those in some less-developed countries, on the other hand, might just as well be living in hell. But in Capetown, South Africa, last week, Amnesty International (AI), the world's leading human rights monitoring group, offered at least a glimmer of hope to persecuted homosexuals worldwide.

AI delegates voted at a meeting of its International Council Meeting (ICM) on Thursday, December 18 to "increase the visibility of its work on human rights violations on the grounds of sexual orientation."

In other words, as a marketing person might put it, AI has decided to put more gloss on its image, while not significantly changing its product.

For a decade, AI has tiptoed around the subject of sexual orientation, giving into nervous jitters whenever gay activists asked the group to include that category



IGLHRC's Sydney Levy

in its global mission statement. Such inclusion would compel AI to actively seek out, expose, and help prevent government-sanctioned persecutions of lesbian and gay citizens. Yet AI has long felt that such work would be unpopular with many of its less-than-open-minded supporters, and would compromise its ability to

work effectively in other arenas.

Despite its lack of an official mandate to work on behalf of queers, however, AI has sometimes quietly but effectively acted on cases involving the persecution of gay and lesbians. For instance, AI recently "adopted" Mariana Cetiner as a prisoner of conscience in Romania, its first such action on behalf of a lesbian. Yet that move came only after the case had been researched by the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) in conjunction with Human Rights Watch.

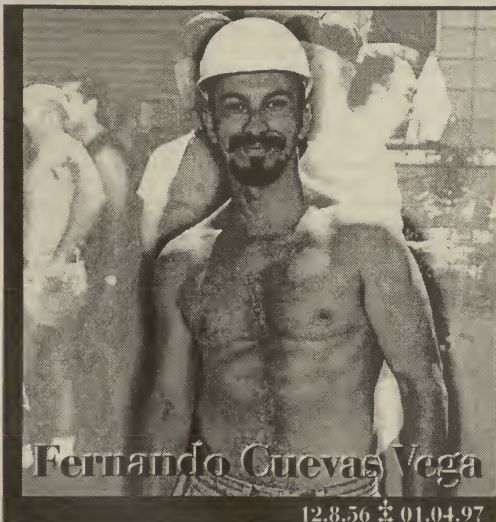
Disappointed but encouraged

What AI decided to do in Capetown is make more hay from its unofficial work in the sexual orientation arena. What activists had hoped for was a much more pro-active, pro-gay agenda from AI. But in the days leading up to the ICM's action on the matter, activists tallied up the likely votes for or against such an agenda, and realized they had no hope of succeeding.

"We are disappointed that Amnesty could not find the votes to change its statute," said Sydney Levy, research and advocacy director of IGLHRC, which had lobbied AI heavily on the issue. "Yet at the same time," added Levy, "we are encouraged by Amnesty's new position on 'government inaction.'" He was referring to AI's decision to take action against human rights abuses by non-government actors, when the state is complicit or has failed to prevent or redress the abuse.

"When gay men and transgendered people are 'disappeared' by social cleansing squads, when lesbians are forced into psychiatric institutions against their will, when AIDS organizations are bombed," said IGLHRC Executive Director Julie Dorf, "human rights are being violated, whether the government is the perpetrator or not."

Dorf said she hopes AI's new commitment to making known its occasional work on behalf of queers is matched by an increased attention to research and documentation: "That is where the challenge lies." ▼

**Fernando Cuevas Vega**

12.8.56 ✻ 01.04.97

Gift box

by Jim Provenzano

By now anyone with a computer and curiosity has found a plethora of real and fake images of some of the world's most handsome athletes posing nude. For the other 90 percent of the world that doesn't even have a computer, I like to share the best of these finds. It is the gif-giving season, after all.

Years ago, Hector "Macho" Camacho posed almost completely nude for *Playgirl*. Camacho showed off his lovely lightweight boxer form, and a well-oiled posterior. One particularly engaging shot is of Camacho being massaged by a male trainer, while the camera hones in directly on his heinie.

Other jocks have graced the pages of the magazine that purports to be marketed for heterosexual women. As if! Almost all the models these days can be found periodically in the back section of this and any other gay



Hector Camacho

mag, and in your favorite erotic videos. Hello! Most of the "Real Men" look familiar, too. One, in



Oscar de la Hoya

fact, who I found in a recent page-flipping (purely for finding material for you, dear readers), was a very young shot of a gay artist who now makes jewels for your genitalia!

The funny thing is, last month's cover boy, Oscar de la Hoya, also posed for the mag, but clothed. He succumbed to a fluffy interview in which the boxer was touted as a great lover of women, yet not married.

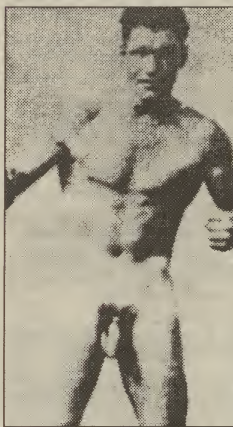
The bout this year between de la Hoya and Camacho was quite a beautiful match. Two of the most handsome men in the sport, competing for the Number One slot. This is pay-per-view at its best.

But one can only wonder. With the rate of former *Playgirl* models being actually gay, we all cock our collective heads aside and think, "Hmmm, what's going on?" First, de la Hoya poses on the cover of *Men's Fitness*, which, of course, is nothing but neo-porn for closet cases. We've been over that.

But think about it. Camacho

poses and shows butt. Years later, de la Hoya poses and cops out. Now, I hear he's got a skinny butt, nothing of the curvaceousness of Camacho. Yet de la Hoya won the fight. Oscar's hair is also beginning to show signs of implantation.

I wonder what it will take to get Oscar the Champ to succumb to the openness that Hector has shown. I like to think of Camacho as still the champion for baring not all, but at least more.



Jack Dempsey

Baring even more, of course, is a classic photo of Jack Dempsey, who had no qualms about posing completely nude for a photographer, and struck a fighting stance as well. Boxing is one of the most



Mike Tyson

violent of sports. Duh. But the contrary truth, so I've heard, is that boxers tend to be some of the most peaceful and tender fellows (except, perhaps, Mike Tyson, who has been photographically caught in the altogether twice, although if they are fakes, the resemblance is ear-y).

The fascination with getting these guys in their birthday suits seems to be this: look, they are mere humans, the greatest fighters in the world, living gods, media deities in shiny silky shorts. And yet hey, when you look at 'em, they're just guys. It's like opening the gift. Sometimes, the wrapping is what makes the present.

Merry Christmas. And happy Boxing Day. ▼

Study finds that sexually active men live longer

by Heidi Dawley,
UPI Science News

A newly published research paper suggests that men who have more sex live longer than their more abstemious peers.

George Davey Smith, professor of clinical epidemiology at the University of Bristol and a co-author of the report, told United Press International, "I was very surprised at the strength of the data."

The risk of death was 50 percent lower for men in the high activity group than for men in the low activity group. In the study published in the *British Medical Journal*, scientists looked at research on 918 men aged 45 to 59. The researchers defined high

orgasmic frequency to be twice a week or more, and low orgasmic frequency to be less than monthly. The authors concluded that sexual activity seemed to have a protective effect on men's health.

This was true for all causes of death, although there was a particularly strong correlation between reduced deaths from heart disease and high orgasmic frequency. However, Smith cautioned, "I am not saying that more frequent sexual activity stops people from dying of heart attacks. It could be that healthy people are more likely to have more sex."

Simon Wessely, professor of epidemiological psychiatry at Kings College London, told UPI, "It's probably because people who have more sex are fitter in a broad evolutionary sense of the word." ▼

AMSTERDAM 1998

Show your muscles

by Paul van Yperen

In 1994, bodybuilding was a pumping success at Gay Games New York, so expectations are high for next year, when 150 participants will perform in the Amsterdam RAI from August 4-6. To warm up the Dutch public for this spectacular event, a team of Holland's most famous professional bodybuilders will perform during four gala shows in Dutch clubs, from February 15 until June 30.

They presented themselves to the Dutch press on December 11 and created quite a stir. National Dutch daily *Het Parool* (not a gay paper) wrote enthusiastically, "Four hunks show their biceps in various positions, dressed only in a vacuum-sucked slip, with bodies steaming of sweat: let the Games begin!"

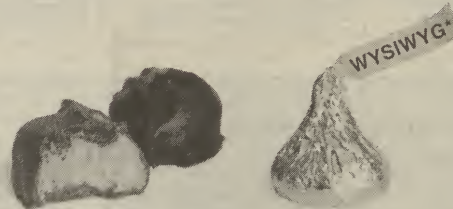
As Ms. Niek van der Spek, Director of Operations, mentioned in her welcome speech, women were underrepresented at the press presentation. Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 is looking for more women who want to show their muscles.

According to Bodybuilding Coordinator Harry Renders, there are already more than 100 participants for the bodybuilding tournament, but there are only two Dutch participants. Both made a huge impression during the presentation and will be part of the promotion team: concert pianist (and Mr. Club Trash) Ernst Stolz, and radio anchorman Thijs Westerbeek van Eerten.

Tickets for the bodybuilding tournament are already available and can be bought from Gay Games Ticket Center. Telephone from the United States: 1-31-20-4200-200; fax: 1-31-20-6229-011.

P.S. Happy New Year! We look forward to 1998, the year of friendship, the year of Gay Games Amsterdam, the year that we've waited for with "endless desire." (In Amsterdam, that quote is instantly recognizable. The text on our Homomonument reads, "For friendship, such endless desire.") ▼

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COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/Golden Gate
Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mtgs. Tues, 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs, 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF
Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture
The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed, 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

ADD Support Group
Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral. Call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group
For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Quellet, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove
Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS Support Group
2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake. 552-7517.

AIDS Treatment Education Network
Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS; holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project
Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 436-9000.

ARIS
AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather
Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info: c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail kchoi415@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV
Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Bereavement Groups
For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Buddhist AIDS Project
Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cannabis Club
Allowed by court order to cultivate marijuana for medicine. Needed: old grow lights, fans, etc. 1444 Market. 621-3986.

CHANGES Project
(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV
Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza
The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 431-3212.

Community United Against Violence
Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Connections
Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services
An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous
Meetings every Wed, 8pm at 18th St. Services Mtg. Place (15th & Market); Sat, 7pm, and Sun, 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Diabetics
Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Gay Dads
Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MPCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project
Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay Male Nudists
Potluck dinners monthly, after-hours parties, movie nights. Box 14175, SF 94114. 974-9446.

Gay Men's Meditation Group
Yoga philosophy, silent meditation, discussion of integrating sexuality with spirituality, free. Sundays, 4pm. Call 431-7575.

Gay Young Spirit
A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues, 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club
A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Glide-Goeddelt HIV/AIDS Project
Free, confidential Orasure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-3, 4-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2273.

Healing Alternatives
Foundation Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services
For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-7pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing
And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline
Peer support for persons afflicted with Hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network
Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program
Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIVCare
Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 333-6215.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group
Free, every Tues, 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group
18-25, meets every Wed, 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing
Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions
Free classes for PWA, their families, friends & loved ones: 'New AIDS Drugs: What Every Patient & Caregiver Should Know,' more. 1675 California. 824-3269.

Immune Enhancement Project
Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Lesbian/Gay Christian Scientists
Meets 2nd Monday of each month for healing, insight and support. Info: 281-0636. or (800) 280-6653.

Lesbian Support Groups
On mental health issues: peer counseling, support and referrals for SF residents. Call Connie, 552-0788.

LYRIC's After School
Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics
STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Medical Cannabis Delivery System
Serves homebound and ambulatory patients in SF and the East Bay. Fax, 255-7489. 2261 Market, #478, SF 94114. 436-9648.

Meditation Sessions
For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues, Thurs, Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault
Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Mobilization Against AIDS
Seeks volunteers to assist in planning 15th Internat'l AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Call 863-4676.

Multiple Loss Bereavement Group
For those experiencing multiple losses of friends or loved ones to AIDS. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

Pacific Center
Counseling services for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Pacific Center Walnut Creek
Support groups for queer and questioning people, counseling referrals and information. (510) 939-7711.

Paradigm
Models for Enhancing Life Near Death, serves the terminally ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

Positive Gay Humanists
Internat'l organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues, at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

Positive Resource
Provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg call 928-1448.

Project Inform
HIV/AIDS Treatment info & advocacy group. Introductory town mtgs. first Wed. of month, 6:30pm, 1965 Market, Suite 220. Hotline: 558-9051; 1-800-822-7422.

Project Open Hand
Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida
Provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

Psychic Horizons
Free introductory meditation class Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. 2240 Geary Blvd. 346-7906.

Q Action
Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2A2T.

Qi Gong for Health
\$1 per class. Mon., Wed, 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Question HIV
Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women
Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Sadhana Brothers
Gay/bi men's Hindu/Yogi fellowship, meets monthly for chanting, meditation, informal discussion. Call Ed, 647-4388.

SCA
Sexual Compulsive Anonymous meets Fri. at 6:30pm, 2128 15th St. 1-800-977-HEAL.

Senior Center
Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors, free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Senior Unlimited Nudes
Naturists over 40 fighting agism & Imagism, gather at Baker Beach. Info: Send SASE to SUN, Box 426937, SF 94142.

Transgenders in Transition
Alternative Family Project's on-going support group for transgendered and transsexual people. Thurs, 7:30pm, 425 Divisadero, Suite 203B. 436-9000.

Transitions
Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 644-6975.

Under One Roof
The Shop for AIDS Relief at 2362 Market seeks volunteers to assist customers and help with catalogue sales. Call Ian at 252-9430.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center SF
Seeks volunteers to join its AIDS/ARC Volunteer Program. Volunteers visit patients in hospital and help in simple care tasks. Volunteers for AIDS Home Care and Phone Buddy Program are also needed. Contact Ronald Hunt, AIDS Volunteer Program Coordinator, VA Medical Center, 4150 Clement St., 750-2144.

Volunteer haircutters needed
For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Cntr. Once a month, 3-hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

We Care Bay Area
Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

TG city workers

◀ page 21

viduals, and \$4,000 to \$75,000 for FTM individuals. Not all MTs and FTMs elect to have surgery, and some may have already had surgery. Therapy and hormone treatment are two other costs affected by the policy change.

Leal, chair of the Supervisors' Finance Committee until she is sworn in as the city's new treasurer next month, told the B.A.R. the HSSB's action was the right thing to do. "I was pleased we were able to make some movement. Some felt it was not a discrimination issue, and I strongly disagree with that," said Leal.

Attitudes were different

Leal and fellow HSSB member Claire Zvanski from the Service Employee International Union (SEIU) were the lone supporters of removing exclusionary language last month. Last week, they were joined by members Scott Helfond, an appointee of former Mayor Frank Jordan; Sandra K. Schaefer, the city attorney's representative; and Dr. Sidney Foster. Board member Harry Paretchen, the fire department employee union representative, voted no; James Diegan, the police department employee union representative, was absent.

Dean Goodwin, the mayor's liaison to the LGBT community, spoke in support of the policy change at the meeting, and was

pleased with the outcome. "Claire and Susan were awesome," Goodwin told the B.A.R. "It was definitely a group effort. I encouraged them [HSSB] to pass a policy to end discrimination, and the mayor strongly supports that."

Goodwin said that Schaefer, who abstained from voting last month, indicated she was very concerned about discrimination, and felt the HSSB shouldn't wait to change benefit policy language. Helfond echoed her position.

Hilkene said he saw definite differences between the two HSSB meetings. "I was really uncomfortable with the way we were treated last month. I felt there was more openness with them hearing our position this month. There was also a difference on our part; in November, we gave a very formal presentation. The December meeting was much more personal testimony."

"The meeting didn't start that way, but for the latter part of the meeting, it was discussed as a discrimination issue," Hilkene said. He and Haaland pointed to the policy change as the latest example of the city becoming consistent in its support for transgendered people.

"Something Dean Goodwin said, he said it was a real struggle for the board to address domestic partners, and said we've [gays and lesbians] had to fight long and hard in the past, and that this is an opportunity for the board to do the right thing for the T in LGBT," Hilkene said. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219279
The following person(s) are doing business as Cafe Comet, 3141 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103: T. Ching Kung, 17 Jade Place, San Francisco, CA 94131. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed T. Ching Kung. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 9, 1997.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 218873
The following person(s) are doing business as Aarta International, 2538 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121: Rann Shinar, 2538 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121; Assaf Reznik, 2538 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Rann Shinar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 18, 1997.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219323
The following person(s) are doing business as Healthcare Support Services, 5608 Mission St. #1, San Francisco, CA 94112: Sabina D. Thomas, 27475 Hesperian Blvd. #29, Hayward, CA 94545; Robert K. Edward, 10 Feusi Ct., Sacramento, CA 95820. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Sabina D. Thomas. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 10, 1997.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

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STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 199301
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as Flying Penguins, 360 Guerrero St. #207, San Francisco, CA 94103: Alan R. Rearick, 360 Guerrero St. #207, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed Alan R. Rearick. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 09, 1997.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219040
The following person(s) are doing business as Mitzi Ngim's Laughing Dog Graphics, 601 4th St. #320, San Francisco, CA 94107: Mitzi Ngim, 601 4th St. #320, San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of November 21, 1997. Signed Mitzi Ngim. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 25, 1997.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219011
The following person(s) are doing business as North Beach Beverage, 57 Rosemont Place, San Francisco, CA 94103: Mel Ronald Mazzanti, 57 Rosemont Place, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of November 24, 1997. Signed Mel Ronald Mazzanti. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 24, 1997.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219003
The following person(s) are doing business as Laptop Lockup, Laptop Guardian, 2075 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94107: Quakeproof Inc., 2075 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of December 1, 1997. Signed Mel Ronald Mazzanti. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 24, 1997.
Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219466
The following person(s) are doing business as JJ/SF Consulting Services, 737 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94109: John Ryan Johnson, 737 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Ryan Johnson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 17, 1997.
Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 8, 15 1997.

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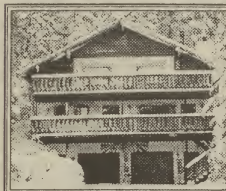
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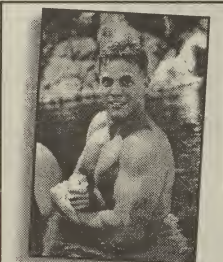
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Kinnear is fruit to Nicholson's nut in 'As Good As It Gets'; Mr. Marcus revisits the year in 'Thanks for the Memories.'
page 35, 40

Pam Grier cooler than cool in Tarantino caper flick, 'Jackie Brown.'
page 34



Star-power, bromides fuel Woody's latest flick, 'Deconstructing Harry.'
page 33



BY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 27 • No. 52 • 25 December 1997

Boys will be girls



Alain
Berliner
explores
gender
identity in
Ma Vie en Rose
by Robert Julian

Strange bedfellows Science and religion find queasy union in queer publishing

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Homosexuality used to be, to quote Victorian literary light Lord Alfred Douglas, "the love that dare not speak its name." Douglas knew what he was talking about: in 1895 his gay *affair de coeur* sent fellow writer Oscar Wilde to prison after a notorious trial.

The end of the Victorian era did not end anti-gay sentiment. When Radclyffe Hall penned her now-classic novel of lesbian love *The Well of Loneliness* in 1928, the book was banned outright in England. A lengthy obscenity trial ensued in the U.S. The subsequent scandal made Hall a pariah, much like Wilde, but secured a place in literary history for the book, which has never been out of print since.

Today, the love that dare not speak its name is a staple of talk shows and sitcoms, magazine stories and books. Were Wilde or Hall alive today they would no doubt have already graced the cover of *Newsweek* under the headline, "Yep, I'm gay!" Queer is trendy, and publishers have leapt on the gay bandwagon. Yet far from



page 36 ►

Young Ludovic is called a boy by his friends and family, but he hardly identifies with the term. The pre-pubescent "Ludo" thinks of himself as a "girlboy," explaining the error in his gender assignment as a mistake — God accidentally dropped the missing X chromosome in the trash. It will soon be found and restored, Ludo confidently explains. Then he will grow up to be a girl and marry Jerome, the boy next door. Simple, no?

This is the premise of *Ma Vie en Rose* (*My Life in Pink*), a startlingly original and entertaining film from Alain Berliner. The story begins as Ludo, his parents and three siblings host a party for their new neighbors in a very *Stepford Wives*-like suburb of Brussels. Ludo's parents just purchased a middle-class tract home that is surrounded by a resident collection of nicely dressed white-collar families. Ludo's family hopes to make a good impression on the neighbors, but their hopes are dashed when Ludo appears for a party wearing a dress, make-up, and earrings. Things go rapidly downhill from here as Ludo becomes a focal point for controversy, both inside and outside his immediate circle of friends, for simply being himself.

The screenplay, cowritten by Berliner and Chris vander Stappen, delicately and humorously renders the dilemma of a young boy who does not conform to the standard gender paradigm. Ludo's interior fantasy world is colorfully portrayed with a blend of special-effects by Eve Romboz and a beautiful set design by Veronique Melery. Under the sensitive direction of Alain Berliner, the ensemble cast portrays the funny, yet sometimes tragic series of events that befall young Ludo and his family.

Georges Du Fresne brings an enigmatic and androgynous charm to his starring role, making Ludo's predicament seem very real. Michel Laroque and Jean-Philippe Ecoffey play the put-upon parents whose love, patience, and understanding are not quite up

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

For those of you who didn't read about it in the *New York Times*, Sarah Pettit, editor-in-chief of *Out* magazine, has been ousted by Henry E. Scott, the president of Out Publishing Inc. The news came as something of a shock to Pettit, who, at *Out*'s recent party celebrating its annual list of 100 most influential gay men and lesbians, had been thanked by Scott for doing a great job in her five years at the helm.



Ousted from *Out*: Sarah Pettit

Indeed, according to the *Times*, Pettit's handling of *Out* magazine has been so steady that "the magazine expects to turn a profit before the end of this month." For her part, Pettit, whose contract was up for renewal in February, was quoted in the *Times* as saying, "I am contemplating a breach-of-contract lawsuit and possibly charging sex discrimination."

Scott called the charges of sex discrimination "bizarre and preposterous," and said he dismissed Pettit because "he was not happy with the direction of the magazine." He also said the monthly's tone had become "too impersonal," that the product "lacked focus," and that he wanted more "service-oriented journalism about how gay people live their lives."

Well, we recognize some of these complaints as the standard-issue wheezes of trigger-happy publishers, but the latter confabulation, "service-oriented journalism," has us stymied. Isn't that an oxymoron, a complicated way of saying "paid advertisement?" In his recent book *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, Daniel Harris lamented the encroachment of Madison Avenue on queer journalism. Some folks dismissed Harris as a paranoid crank, but it looks to us like we're about to see a classic demonstration of his thesis.

Plastic princess

Oh, that Barbie, she may only be plastic doll, but she can duke it out with the best of 'em. Local artist Paul Hansen can attest to that. Last year, during the Yuletide, Mr. Hansen tried selling modified versions of Barbie — *Trailer Trash Barbie*, *Drag Queen Barbie*, and *Big Dyke Barbie* — at a store on Castro Street. Sales were brisk, but Hansen's gig was quickly nixed when suits at Mattel, Barbie's creator, slapped Hansen with a hefty lawsuit for defacing their precious artifact of popular culture.

According to a recent story in the San Francisco legal newspaper *The Recorder*, Hansen agreed to

stop selling his ur-Barbies, but that wasn't enough for Mattel, which also demanded that Hansen stop displaying the dolls in art galleries.

In its case against Hansen, Mattel is arguing that the artist's depictions of Barbie are too negative, in particular Barbie Trailer Trash, which shows Barbie with a bad dye job and a cigarette hanging from her mouth; and Drag Queen Barbie, a Ken doll "dressed in Barbie clothes and wearing a wig." According to *The Recorder*, Hansen has also fashioned a *Prostitute Barbie* with accessories that include a condom, a \$50 bill, and a negligee.

"Hansen's derivative dolls associate Mattel's Barbie line with such antisocial themes as prostitution, child molestation, incest, violence, and the stereotyping and ridiculing of gay people," one of Mattel's lawyers wrote in a reply to inquiries made by *The Recorder*.

We don't want to tell Hansen how to proceed, but we think the appropriate rejoinder to that clueless missive would be to point out Mattel's continued backing of a product that promotes anorexia (ever seen a hefty Barbie?), racism (Barbie is almost always white), and the general dehumanization of women.

Hollywood royalty

Superstar Faye Dunaway never materialized, as rumored, at either the Friday or Saturday runs of *Christmas with Christina Crawford* at the Castro, but we're pretty sure the ghost of Joan Crawford was in the house (perhaps sitting within spitting distance of that malfunctioning fog machine). Still, Joan's shade didn't stop her adopted daughter Christina from serving up a little JC dish at Castro impresario Marc Huestis' long-awaited event. When interviewer Erik Lee Preminger (Otto's son) asked why JC insisted on keeping the temperature on movie sets hovering just above freezing, Christina quipped, "She had ongoing menopause — I think she had it all her life," adding that her mother's New York apartment "was always cold."

Still, while Crawford took a few playful swipes at her famously ill-tempered mother, this event wasn't the Joan Crawford crucifixion that several fanatical fans we know thought it was going to be. If anything, Christina C., who seems like a really down-to-earth person, was circumspect, if not reverential, toward her mother. Oh, it's true, she pulled a decorated wire hanger from a bag to give to the winner of the grab bag contest, but it was hardly lost on most viewers that Crawford never went for the kill.

And there were plenty of opportunities. Like when Preminger asked Crawford to explain why she doesn't like the film version of her book. To our surprise, Crawford

had known for years about our household, and everyone knew what she [Joan Crawford] had done to try and stop my career [as an actress]. In a sense, this was a case of blaming the messenger for bearing bad news."

Who's up next in Huestis' Hall of Hags? Stay tuned to these pages and find out.

Politics and tube socks

Last Wednesday, we weaved our way over to swank Eleven on 11th Street to join our colleagues for the annual B.A.R. Xmas party. As in years past, we were once again stunned to death by the magnificent spread of food, the copious quantities of alcohol (the bar bill alone was \$1,350 for this intimate gathering), and a guest list that included everyone from *Sweet Lips* (looking wondrous in a rhinestone-studded coat) to four big-wig politicians — Ammiano, Migden, Kaufman, and Leal. Though we must confess to being a bit snozzled after eight martinis and a beer chaser, we remember running into all four politicians at various points in the evening. But if memory serves, it wasn't always pretty, and sometimes even bordered on the

Dadaesque. Migden is looking more poodlesque than ever these days, though she did make a bold fashion statement in running shorts and tube socks. Barbara Kaufman emerged from the shadows as an unstoppable Cheshire grin with power hairdo, but it was Leal who had us worrying — she looked both puffy and strangely glaucous under the cafe's *Lautrec*-like lighting (even more so after a testy little encounter with a certain kerchiefed member of the *SF Critical Community*). Ammiano was his usual model of taste and poise.

The evening was peppered with memorable moments, not the least of them Mr. Publisher's reading of the city's official proclamation for retiring B.A.R. reporter Dennis "Body Count" Conkin, which includes the priceless line (penned by B.A.R. editor Mike Salinas): "the only reporter known to have used the words Dalai Lama and anal sex in the same story." Good luck, darling, we'll miss you.

Stop the music!

Alas, our *More Depressing Homosexuals File* has grown apace this week with a sordid tale

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From Sarah Strohmeier's book, *Barbie Unbound*

Geoff Hansen

ford, instead of ticking off a list of faults, deferred to Preminger's litany of woes about the film and then side-stepped the whole thorny issue by complimenting the film's make-up people. In another instance, Crawford told a heartwarming anecdote about how her mother once saved her from a rampaging bull.

Though she didn't offer up much on the subject of the film itself, Crawford did reveal that *Mommie Dearest* was originally slated to be directed by Franco Zeffirelli, not Frank Perry, and that Anne Bancroft was to play the lead, not Dunaway. Finally, on the subject of her being blacklisted from Hollywood circles after the publication of the book, Crawford said, "People did ostracize me, and it was a little insincere, because people in Holly-

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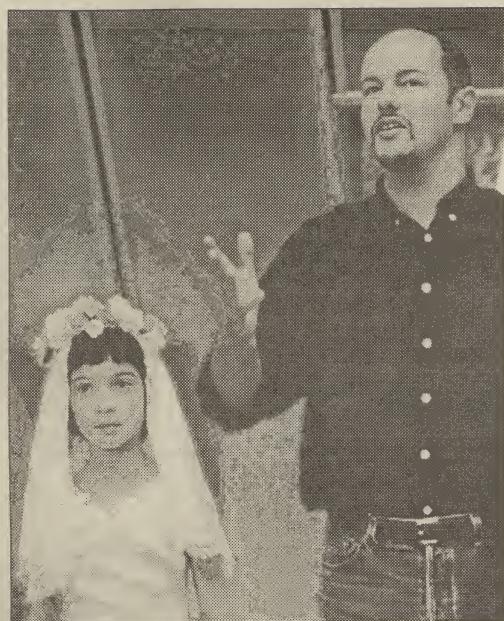
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Ma Vie en Rose

◀ Arts cover

to the task of raising a child whose very existence questions the sex-role stereotypes of society. Laroque, as the understanding mother, enacts her role with conviction and good humor, but even she has her breaking point, as does Ludo's free-spirited maternal grandmother, charmingly rendered by Helen Vincent. The indignation and hysteria of the neighbors are often played for laughs, but the comic overtones belie rigidly inflexible attitudes toward gender identity. The unasked question hovering around the edges of the film is: What is the harm to society, or the individual, if a young child identifies with a sex role that does not conform to his genitalia?

Ma Vie en Rose is a brave, entertaining, and visually arresting film that not only makes you

laugh, but makes you think. Although this film will be enjoyed by most audiences, it is of special relevance to queer and transgendered viewers. I can think of no film this year that addresses age-old issues of concern to these communities in a more intelligent and perceptive fashion. Yet writer/director Alain Berliner manages to pull all this off with great artistry, constructing a cinematic reality that avoids both soap opera sentiment and PC preachiness. In this, his first feature film, Berliner establishes himself as a filmmaker with exceptional technical skills and an elevated sense of social consciousness. *Ma Vie en Rose* is without precedent — no one has ever made a film like this before. It should not be missed. ▼

Ma Vie en Rose opens December 26 at the Clay Theatre.

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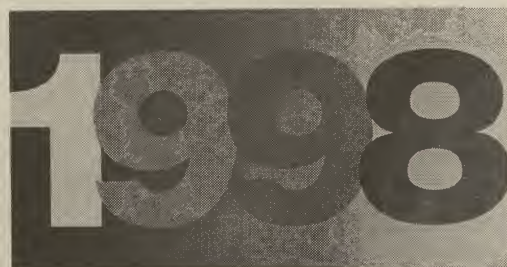
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Lucky lady

Pam Grier returns to form in 'Jackie Brown'

by John Blanco

Director Quentin Tarantino's previous thug epics were better known for their machismo and homophobia — remember Bruce Willis heroically blowing away the greasy, gun shop faggots in *Pulp Fiction*? — than for their strong female characters. *Reservoir Dogs* had no significant

female roles, while 1994's *Pulp Fiction* presented a succession of one-dimensional, film noir stereotypes — sexy moll, tough bitch, loyal girlfriend. So it's heartening to find at the center of Tarantino's latest movie, *Jackie Brown*, an assertive, smart woman (of color, no less) who is the pawn of no man.

Pam Grier, the kick-ass queen of the '70s blaxploitation genre,

plays Jackie Brown, a stewardess with a cut-rate airline who supplements her meager salary by smuggling cash into the country for gunrunner Ordell Robbie (Samuel L. Jackson). An ATF agent (Michael Keaton) and an LA cop (Michael Bowen) apprehend Brown after one of these trips, and find her in possession of a large chunk of cash, as well as a bag of cocaine intended for Robbie's girlfriend (Bridget Fonda). The cop and agent then cook up a plan to nab Robbie that involves Brown smuggling more cash into the states. Facing prosecution if she fails to cooperate, Brown pretends to play along with the authorities, all the while devising a scheme that would make her the recipient of the smuggled loot.

In her scheme, Brown enlists the help of Max Cherry (Robert Forster), a sweet-natured bail bondsman who is so infatuated with Jackie that he never questions whether he's really her accomplice or just her dupe. Jackie and Max have the film's most intriguing relationship. Although seemingly an odd match, these two weary, middle-aged people share a longing for an escape from their hands-on way of life. Grier and Forster, in wonderful performances, make the desperation of the characters seem palpable. After nearly 30 years each toiling in low-budget, sometimes straight-to-video fare, these are two actors who can obviously relate to feeling a little cheated by life.

It's too bad that Tarantino, who based his screenplay on Elmore Leonard's book *Rum Punch*, didn't focus more on Jackie and



Pam Grier in Quentin Tarantino's *Jackie Brown*.

Max's relationship than on the elaborate money-smuggling scam that makes up the last third of the film. At first, the scam doesn't even make much sense, but as we see it replayed in flashback from the perspective of different characters, the truth of what has taken place becomes clear. This non-linear style of narrative doesn't work well in *Jackie Brown*. After all, it isn't as if Tarantino were offering up a weighty, *Rashomon*-like meditation on the "truth" of the event. He's simply assembling the puzzle pieces of the plot, and, consequently, the whole sequence seems pointlessly dragged-out.

Jackie Brown has all the hip and ironic earmarks of a Tarantino film — allusions to other movies (the long tracking shot of Grier on an airport's moving sidewalk during the movie's opening credits is a nod to the credits of *The Graduate*) and retro-pop interludes (Grier and Forster bond over the Delfonics). But, ultimately, this is all just postmodern gloss on what is essentially — Grier and Foster aside — a fairly routine crime flick. ▼

Jackie Brown opens December 25 at the Regency II.

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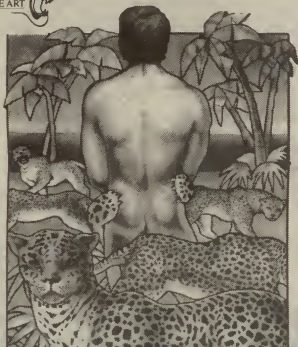
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The parent trap

Atom Egoyan's 'The Sweet Hereafter'

by Gary Morris

Atom Egoyan is usually a reliable observer of human relationships, but in his latest film, *The Sweet Hereafter*, he's crafted a sort of lamentation for lost children that approaches bathos. Some have speculated that Egoyan's recent fatherhood is responsible for his increased sensitivity to "the children," but it looks like this event has clouded his artistic vision to a fatal degree, allowing him to pass off a seemingly endless parade of blubbering heterosexuals as players in a cosmic tragedy.

Based on Russell Banks' novel, *The Sweet Hereafter* looks at the effects of a bus crash, in which 14 children are killed, on the denizens of a small town in a remote corner of British Columbia. As in many such towns, the citizens here have a vague sense of community that is more thought about than acted upon, except when one of the characters, Billy Ansell (Bruce Greenwood), screws the wife of a neighbor. (In fact, most of the townspeople don't seem to live near each other, but are spread out over a rather vast terrain, which is hardly conducive to the kind of harmony the film would have us believe exists.)

Into this grim realm steps "big-



Nicole Burnell

city" lawyer Mitchell Stephens (Ian Holm), who wants to represent the townspeople who lost kids in the accident. His idea is to sue the company that made the bus. The film spends most of its time tracing his efforts to convince various recalcitrant citizens to join the lawsuit, and the split that these efforts cause within the town.

The Sweet Hereafter pulls out all the stops, piling up the tragedies to numbing, pointless effect. Stephens' junkie daughter (Caerthan Banks) can't just be a junkie and a whore, she also has to be a junkie whore with AIDS. The sweet Sarah Polley's (Nicole Burnell) dreams of being a rock star are smashed by the accident,

which lands her in a wheelchair. The kindly bus driver Dolores Driscoll (Gabrielle Rose) is crippled, and for reasons that are unclear — unless we accept it as part of a pattern of cloying sentimentality — she lives with a man who is even more disabled than she is. (No hint that he was on the bus.)

This parade of fractured heteros and their childrearing problems begins to grate soon after the film begins. In a key sequence, Stephens meets one of his daughter's former girlfriends, a demure, apparently successful yuppie. They have a long, sad conversation about Zoe and the destructive effect she has on his life. A friend of mine suggested that Stephens is just pissed off because his daughter isn't a yuppie like her friend. But the whole film, really, is about expectations that fail to materialize — but why should they when they're so conventional? Egoyan marginalizes the most interesting character in the story, the easily rejected Zoe, in the interest of an almost Norman Rockwell world view disguised as an art film, complete with confusing time shifts, gorgeous visuals, and conventionally fine acting. ▼

The Sweet Hereafter opens Christmas Day in general release.

FILM

Jack Nicholson and Greg Kinnear in *As Good As It Gets*.

Fruit with nuts

'As Good As It Gets': Manhattan three-way

by Robert Julian

Take Manhattan, add one nut-case author, one impoverished single mother, and one gay artist with a little dog named Verdell. Throw them together, give them lines by James L. Brooks and Mark Andrus, and you have a hit. *As Good As It Gets*

is writer/director Brooks' most successful romantic comedy since *Broadcast News*.

Jack Nicholson has the role of a lifetime as Melvin Udall, a character who puts Nicholson's lunatic screen persona to perfect use. Nicholson's Melvin is a successful novelist who detests all human beings and never fails to express his dislike for others di-

rectly to their faces. It takes an adorable dog to break down Melvin to the point that he befriends his gay neighbor, Simon (Greg Kinnear), and his favorite waitress, Carol (Helen Hunt).

When Simon gets beaten and robbed by a gang of street thugs, Melvin is coerced into dog-sitting for Verdell during Simon's hospital stay. The curmudgeonly Melvin becomes attached to the little dog, and the relationship has a softening effect on his personality. Indeed, when Melvin learns that Carol's son is seriously ill, he begins paying the boy's medical bills. Eventually, an awkward romance blossoms between Melvin and Carol. When Melvin, Carol, and Simon all head off to Baltimore on a disastrous road trip,

page 39 ►

Miller, De Herrera get soaked at NCT

by Richard Dodds

Shirts and Skins could have used a raincoat for part of its run, and Billy De Herrera didn't even get to open *Vanity Case* because singing in the rain wasn't part of his act.

The New Conservatory Theatre Center, located in the basement of a city-owned building at 25 Van Ness Avenue, has been forced to shut the smallest of its three theaters because of an ongoing water-drainage problem. Two performances of the November run of Tim Miller's *Shirts and Skins* were canceled once the rains began, and a planned holdover was abandoned. The run of De Herrera's *Vanity Case*, which was slated to begin in early December, has been postponed. The theatre's restrooms have also been affected, requiring patrons to use facilities on the main floor.

The leak has been a problem during the rainy season for six years, according to NCT Artistic Director Ed Decker. "Before, we could sort of live with it," he said, "but it's been escalating into kind of a regular flow."

"The city has done patchwork repairs on the street and sidewalks trying to figure out where the problem is," said Decker. "Now they're coming at it from underneath, which is where they should be doing it. I think they've finally gotten the message."

If the leaks can be repaired, the theater will reopen on February 12 with the Nellie Olesons, a gay comedy troupe from New York. De Herrera is scheduled to open *Vanity Case*, in which he portrays a legendary chanteuse, in early March.

"This has hurt my career," De Herrera said. "I was counting on being a hit." Because this is the second time a run of *Vanity Case* has been aborted (an earlier version closed after a single performance at Josie's in June), De Herrera is afraid he'll become known as "the drag queen who cried wolf." In the meantime, he's taken an understudy role in *Dirty Little Showtunes*, which continues its run in the New Conservatory's largest auditorium.

De Herrera, who estimates he lost \$1,000 in pre-production expenses and \$7,500 in lost income, is now considering suing for compensation. But Decker, who is pleased that efforts have been made to fix the problem, wants "to avoid all that political and legal stuff." The theater, he said, is willing to help De Herrera with *Vanity Case*'s production costs.

"I'm hoping we can work all that out," Decker said. "Other than the leak, we have a wonderful working relationship with the city. But this has been a very long and painful process." ▼

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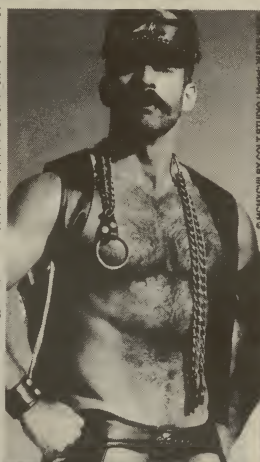
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Brownworth

◀ Arts cover

breaking new ground, the resultant flood of books seems culled from the eras of Wilde and Hall. There are, of course, the celebrity bios of queer icons like Ellen DeGeneres and k.d. lang for the non-reader, but the literate hard core is comprised of back-to-the-future tracts that plead for understanding and compassion on the grounds, the authors claim, that queers are just the boy and girl next door, differing from their heterosexual counterparts only in the choice of bed partner.

Far from being the radical calls to action of a longstanding civil rights movement or provocative treatises on a sexual counterculture, these books argue a strident polemic that is decidedly neo-conservative, an argument that sticks to a creationist version of homosexuality: We're here because we were born gay, we don't like that nasty leftist word queer, and we'd really appreciate it if you could try and get used to it because God made us the same way he made you.

These books, despite their marketing ploys, do not represent



Radclyffe Hall

trenched homophobia, few wish to subvert their individual and cultural personae to achieve that goal. The jury is still out on the nature- versus-nurture theory of the origin of homosexuality, but

The significance of this '90s theory of biology-as-destiny, and hence of the books that argue it, is how contradictory it is to the queer literary canon that has evolved since — and in response to — the days when Wilde and later Hall were being prosecuted. Particularly in the three decades since the Stonewall riots formally signaled the beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement and the civil rights actions that were to follow, books by gay and lesbian writers — fiction and non-fiction alike — have made a singular case for an entirely opposite argument: Gays and lesbians differ from heterosexuals not just in terms of sexual orientation, but in culture and ethics as well; nevertheless, these distinctions, like racial differences between whites and blacks, should not in any way preclude acquisition of civil rights and equality under the law.

The new phalanx of writing on the gay question even disputes the role of identity politics in gay life; assimilation is the essence of this theoretical construct in which sameness (to heterosexuality) is emphasized, not difference. Spencer, for example, begins with prehistory and animal behavior to

The new phalanx of writing on the gay question even disputes the role of identity politics in gay life; assimilation is the essence of this theoretical construct in which sameness (to heterosexuality) is emphasized, not difference.

a queer mandate. As a genre they are a blatant misrepresentation not only of the needs and desires of gays and lesbians, but of their lives as well. For while most queers ache for an end to the violence, discrimination, and general incivility that come with en-

the fact remains that despite how gays and lesbians came into being, they have evolved over time a separate and truly remarkable culture and community wholly distinct and independent from heterosexual society. These books negate that reality.

The new gay book is formulaic conservatism at the core, its authors culled not from the front lines of gay rights marches or activist demonstrations but from neo-con think tanks and the halls of academe, dressed not in drag or leather but Brooks Brothers and club tie. These books, coming as they do from mainstream and academic publishers, signal more than an acceptance of a cultural trend. Pitched as they are to a predominately heterosexual audience, they collectively provide the most conspicuous features of a new gay literary canon that makes the heterosexualizing of homosexuality its central goal.

Books like Colin Spencer's exhaustively researched *Homosexuality in History* (Harcourt Brace, \$29); the equally thorough *Gay Science: The Ethics of Sexual Orientation Research* by Timothy E. Murphy (Columbia University Press, \$18); Bruce Bawer's *Beyond Queer* (The Free Press, \$25); Jack Nichols' *The Gay Agenda: Talking Back to the Fundamentalists* (Prometheus Books, \$24); Frank Mondimore's *A Natural History of Homosexuality* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, \$35); and a host of other titles posit the same basic theory: Gays (and lesbians, though they have a larger role on TV sit-coms than in these books) are born, not made. This so-called biological fact (codified by gay scientist/geneticist Simon LeVay) makes them just like everybody else, and as such they should be accorded the same rights and privileges as heterosexuals. These rights and privileges include but are not limited to marriage (complete with white picket fence and 2.5 children) and military service,

render his theory of the endemic property of male homosexual behavior in every society from the apes to our own. He argues — persuasively, if in deadly dull language — that male homosexuality is intrinsic to all cultures, Western, Eastern, Polynesian, you name it, and therefore is "normal" and "natural," so we should accept it and move on. Homosexuality, as Spencer defines it, is biological, not political.

Nichols, co-founder of the Mattachine Society of Washington, DC, one of the first gay rights groups in the U.S., takes on the Religious Right's anti-gay rhetoric by arguing the born-not-made theory of homosexuality. He addresses politics, but in the pleading tone of Hall's 60-year-old novel. Nichols takes the tack that hatemongering in any form is bad and unchristian; if God made gays, then Christians must accept them. Again, the basis for the argument is creationist: If one is born gay, then one cannot go against one's nature as, ipso facto, God intended. Choice has been rendered out of the argument; in fact, much of the new polemic stresses the rhetorical question, "Why would anyone choose to be gay when it's so difficult?" One must be born gay.

These books, by-and-large, aren't merely the individuated musings of one author or another. Rather, they are presented as history, science, religion, philosophy, ethics — the guts of our cultural perspective on society and humanity, and therein lies the problem. The "facts" have been subtly altered to fit an assimilationist agenda. Thus when Spencer presents his data on the existence of homosexual behavior in one society after another throughout recorded (and even prerecorded) history, he presumes (and the reader accepts his authority) that his perspective is the perspective.

Yet Spencer's data is only part

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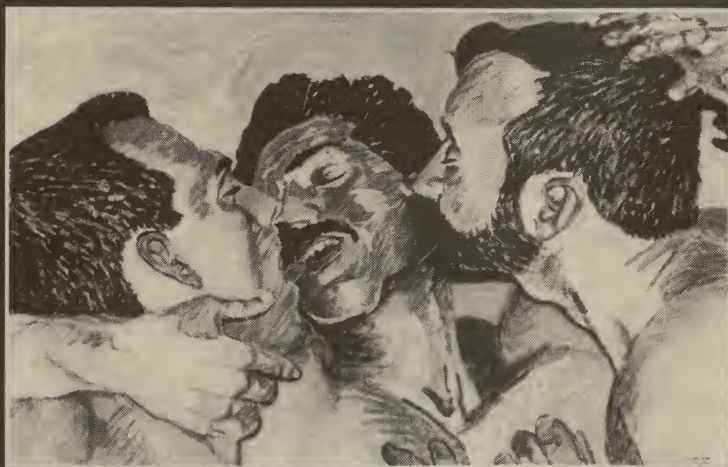


illustration by Sandy Shapiro

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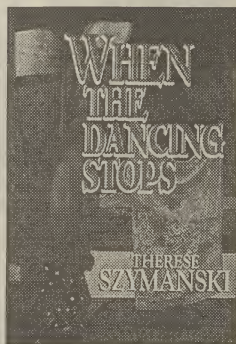
Unwelcome departure

by Deborah Peifer

When the Dancing Stops by
Therese Szymanski; Naiad,
\$11.95

According to the cover, *When the Dancing Stops* is "a daring departure from the standard lesbian mystery." I only wish that a badly written mystery filled with cardboard characters were a departure from most of the drack that passes for lesbian genre fiction these days. I suppose a mystery series named after the bad guy is a bit of a departure, and even that is problematic for reasons I cannot reveal without giving away the ending of this odd little novel.

Brett Higgins is the manager of a chain of adult entertainment venues, pornography stores, and places where a napkin is not what



will end up on your lap. One of the strippers, Storm, has a major case of the hots for Brett, who seems to share those feelings until she meets a high school student named Allie and decides her heart is big

enough to love two women. Storm knows about Allie, but the innocent Allie doesn't know about Storm. When she finds out, ooohh.

Therese Szymanski clearly has done some research about the sex trades and sex workers, but her characters are superficially drawn at best and are never living people in whom we take an interest. The plot, with its various permutations concerning drugs, prostitution, undercover sting operations, unrequited love, stalking, and bringing the little woman home to meet mom and dad, covers a lot of ground to the depth of about one-eighth of an inch.

I'm unclear on why anyone would welcome with glad cries the news that a second Brett Higgins will appear next year. My own hope is that someone rethinks. In the meantime, something besides the dancing should stop. ▼



Miscellany

by Deborah Peifer

Katherine Forrest (the Kate Delafield mysteries, *Curious Wine*) will teach a writing course ("Writing a Novel the Professional Way") at Book Passage in Corte Madera from January 20 to March 24. The ten-week course is an intensive writing workshop that includes in-class critiques. If you've been wondering how to move your manuscript from a hobby to a publishable piece, this is the class for you. Call 927-0960 for information on this and other classes at Book Passage.

I never imagined I'd be reviewing a calendar, but *Two Women* (above, distributed by Pride Publications) is a gorgeous collection of artistically daring and involving photographs celebrating the passion of a shared life. I particularly enjoyed June and August. If you send a check for \$15 to Pride, 18113 36th Avenue W, Suite 1108, Lynwood WA 98037, they'll send you a copy, and ship it free. Call (773) 880-2423, or email twowomen@aol.com for information about posters or limited-edition photographs from the "two women" project.

If you missed *Lucy on the West Coast and Other Lesbian Short Fiction* (Alyson, \$9.95) in hardcover last year, don't repeat that mistake by missing the paperback release. Mary Beth Caschetta pens intense tales of women in critical moments, and she writes them extremely well. She also writes with real humor — a woman who can get an honest belly-laugh out of a kid being hit with a baseball bat is a talent not to be missed. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a literary nature, contact dpeifer@aol.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Passport to pleasure

by Deborah Peifer

Backstage Pass: Interviews With Women in Music by Laura Post; New Victoria, \$16.95

If you're someone for whom the term "women's music" resonates, you owe yourself a *Backstage Pass*. Laura Post sought out such luminaries as Alix Dobkin, Kay Gardner, Linda Tillery, Margie Adam —

40 women altogether — and gave them a chance to talk about their music and their politics. The result is a fascinating and entertaining tiptoe through the stories of women whose music gave voice to generations of women.

Post includes a discography for each artist, so you can plan those winter present lists. *Backstage Pass* reminds us of our history, while it suggests the myriad possibilities of our musical futures. ▼



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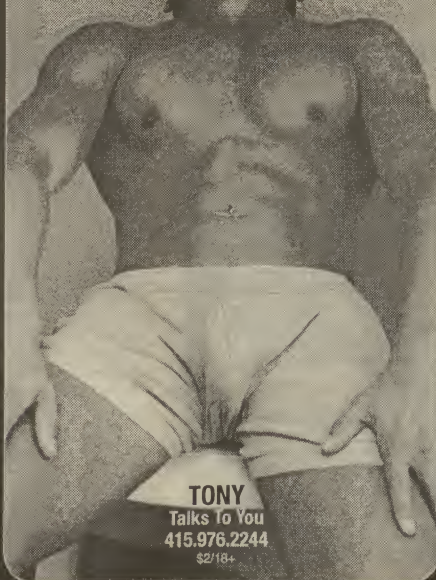
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Time for a make-over

by Conor Kennedy

Making Faces by Kevyn Aucoin;
Little Brown & Company, \$29.95

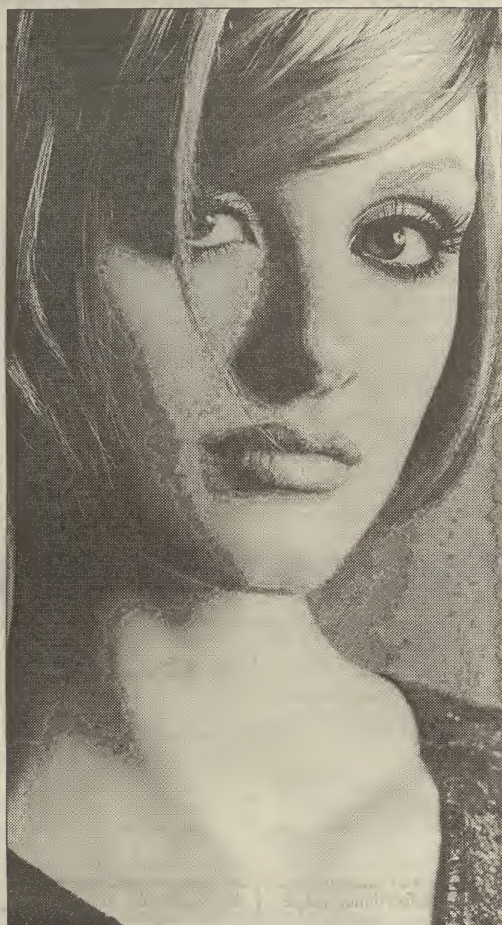
From covers of fashion magazines worldwide to the runway shows of Ralph Lauren, Isaac Mizrahi, and Jean-Paul Gaultier, New York make-up artist Kevyn Aucoin has glossed, brushed, and painted the most celebrated faces of our era. His second book, *Making Faces*, is a beautifully illustrated how-to guide that provides easy steps to instant beauty for even the most make-up impaired.

Making Faces is a testament to the depths of transformation that the art of make-up can accomplish. The first section of the book runs through basic techniques for eyes, lips, brows, and a whole host of parts you didn't even know existed, like the apple of the cheek. To help make his case, Aucoin employs the expert skills of several internationally recognized photographers — Michael Thompson, Peter Lindbergh, Miles Aldridge — and the results are eye-popping indeed.

In the next section, Aucoin details make-overs of plain Janes (the before and after pics will leave you speechless). This gallery of non-celebrity transformations (including Aucoin's mother and sister) comprises the real meat of the book and reveals how make-up can be used effectively by anyone — including men — in real life situations.

The last section of the book will convert skeptics. Here, Aucoin applies make-up techniques from yesteryear to the faces of several of today's most glamorous stars. Drew Barrymore smolders as a '30s starlet à la Myrna Loy; Lisa Marie Presley bats her "bedroom eyes" as a shocking twin to Marilyn Monroe; and most stunning of all, Gwyneth Paltrow purrs seductively as a '90s Kim Novak.

More than a make-over manual, *Making Faces* also functions



One of Kev's gals.

as a zesty chronicle of Aucoin's rise to the top of the modeling industry. Gobs of Polaroids at the back of the book capture the artist backstage with supermodels and rock stars, but also show his touching, first make-up experiments performed on family and

friends.

Ultimately, *Making Faces* is the retelling of a wonderful fairy tale: arty sissy boy grows up to be rich and famous and best girlfriends with the most beautiful women in the world, a familiar dream to gay boys everywhere. ▼

Brownworth

◀ page 36

of the picture. Just because gay sexual activity existed doesn't mean it was accepted. Edward II wasn't executed via a flaming poker through the anus because the English thought gay monarchs were okay. The slang term faggot

derives from the bundles of gay men that were used to light the fires underneath women — many of them lesbians — who were accused of being witches. Queers were herded onto cattle cars by the Nazis along with Jews. Gays and lesbians were absent from historical texts (and lesbians are still absent from these, but that's another argument) because they were hated and reviled.

Rebuilding history using the ultimate tool of the 20th century, science, in tandem with the ultimate tool of the past, religion, does not and should not create a new literary politic in which writers are so determined to de-demonize gays and lesbians that they negate their cultural essence. The oppressive nature of true gay and lesbian history is part of what forced men and women to create alternative identities and culture. Books like Michael Bronski's seminal *Culture Clash: The Making of Gay Sensibility*, or Ruthann Robson's award-winning treatise on the outsider status of lesbians in society, *Lesbian (Out)Law*, examine with academic concision and intellectual clarity the impact outsider status has had on the creation of a separate and distinct queer culture. (I, for example, don't wish to contemplate a world in which Michelangelo traded in

the Sistine Chapel for a nice cottage in Abruzzi with the boy next door.)

That this new spate of books has driven such a strong wedge in the mainstream market is due in part to the quixotic nature of publishing trends and to the continuing conservatism of America. But the presentation of these works as defining, as the philosophic and cultural core of either a civil rights movement or a people, is both inaccurate and scary, much as if the works of Clarence Thomas and Louis Farrahkan were presented as the only perspective on African-American experience. Readers, particularly heterosexuals, may presume that these books are representative of gay and lesbian philosophy and culture, but in fact they aver that a culture distinct from heterosexuality never even existed. ▼

Victoria A. Brownworth is a contributing editor to *Lambda Book Review* and *Curve*, and her columns on queer politics appear in many newspapers in the U.S. Her most recent book is *Film Fatales: Independent Women Directors*, which she co-authored with Judith M. Redding.

BOOKS

Explicating Eros

by Jim Nawrocki

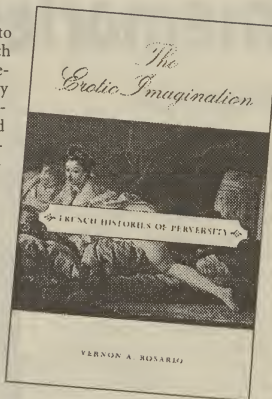
The Erotic Imagination: French Histories of Perversity by Vernon A. Rosario; Oxford University Press, \$27.50

Vernon A. Rosario takes on an ambitious project in *The Erotic Imagination*. He states it quite plainly in his introduction, "What is the origin of the erotic?" Though the question is easily asked, it's not so easy untangling the complexities it poses. In the process of doing so, Rosario leads readers on an adventure that is as much a literary inquiry as it is a medical, sociological, and political one. Although Rosario narrows his focus to pre-20th-century French "histories of perversity," his examinations of early French attitudes toward such phenomena as masturbation, erotomania, inversion (i.e. homosexuality), and fetishism offer valuable perspectives on contemporary discus-

sions of sexuality.

Rosario limits his focus to 18th- and 19th-century French notions of sexual perversity because post-Revolutionary France provided a unique confluence of medical, literary, and popular views of sexual extremes. In delving into his cultural history of the erotic, Rosario, a resident in psychiatry at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, examines how attitudes that today deem certain sexual practices perverse have their roots in the "mediconormal" attitudes of Enlightenment France.

In his chapter on inversion, for example, Rosario notes that homosexuality is one of the most "politically inflammatory" forms of erotism, and he proceeds to trace the early vestiges of what we typically refer to today as "homophobia." He explores the social and historical underpinnings of the marginalization of inversion and explains why 19th-century



French authorities needed to identify inversion as a threat to public order.

The author's examination of the role of fiction and autobiography in the construction of inversion makes for some of the more fascinating material in the book. He quotes at length from one young invert's confessional correspondence with novelist Emile Zola, a series of letters later published under the misleading title, *The Novel of an Invert*. In and of themselves, these excerpts from the invert's life "novel" present a vivid, moving tale.

Though a scholarly discussion of French histories of perversity might seem too academic for most readers, there's enough in *The Erotic Imagination* to satisfy both specialists and the general reader. ▼

Good As It Gets

◀ page 35

Melvin is forced to acknowledge that his obsessive-compulsive disorder lessens the more he begins to express kindness toward others.

The aw-shucks, emotional mush potential of *As Good As It Gets* is undercut by Melvin's truly heartless remarks and insufferable behavior. And Nicholson, who can be overbearing and false on-screen, hits every emotional note here with perfect timing and delivery. It is a wonderful performance, matched every step of the way by Helen Hunt's Carol. Greg Kinnear, wasted in *Sabrina*, portrays a believable, sympathetic gay character with great charm and compassion. His Simon is a good-natured emotional mess who faces artistic and economic ruin with unexpected help from two heterosexual strangers. *As Good As It Gets* is a character-driven story that soars on the charisma of its three stars, but James L. Brooks' weirdly idiosyncratic vision is what makes this unlikely trio work.

Brooks specializes in writing kooks — ordinary kooks — the kind you run into every day without realizing how totally kooky they are. And Brooks' subspecialty is love, in all its myriad forms. Familial love, which he explored in

depth with *Terms of Endearment*, is relegated to a back seat in this outing. Carol's domestic relationships with her son Spencer (Jesse James) and her mother Beverly (Shirley Knight) serve as the bedrock that supports her more unpredictable relationships in the larger world. Simon, who is without romantic attachments, has a family that has rejected him, and Melvin has a long history of alienating everyone. When Carol, Simon, and Melvin's paths converge, misfires are inevitable, but it's the misfires that keep the film moving.

The sexually chaste nature of Brooks' current effort has resulted in a PG-13 rating, making this film one that could be viewed by the entire family. And it may well be that the highest evaluation of these characters will come from the least experienced among us. The three urban protagonists lead such unnecessarily complicated lives that it is almost impossible for them to strip away the garbage that obscures their true natures. But the basic simplicity of the path to personal happiness may well be indicated by the character Brooks employs as the catalyst for positive change: a furry, four-legged beast named Verdell. ▼

As Good As It Gets opens Christmas Day at theatres throughout the Bay Area.

Stocking stuffer

by Deborah Peifer

There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays edited by Sandra Haldeman Martz; Papier-Mache, \$9.95

My guess is that there are few activities that produce more anxiety than going home for the holidays. OK, maybe being on a hijacked plane... but only maybe. Thanksgiving, Passover, Christmas — they all center around family and the home fires, and for those of us who get to add queer to the mix, those home fires are often 9mm.

In her very fine collection of short holiday pieces, Sandra Haldeman Martz offers balm for the troubled holidays to come. The result is many laughs — and the heartening realization that there are holiday gatherings worse than your own. Martz also includes recipes, including one for the day after Thanksgiving that is the most useful I've ever seen: "Take turkey carcass; throw it on the garbage.... Order a takeout pizza, put your feet up, and relax."

Each book also contains, appropriately enough, a flight discount coupon good for up to \$200 off two Continental Airline tickets, as well as an entry blank for a chance to win four free round-trip tickets. Happy holidays! ▼

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BLOW BUDDIES

Thanks for the memories: Part 2

by Mister Marcus

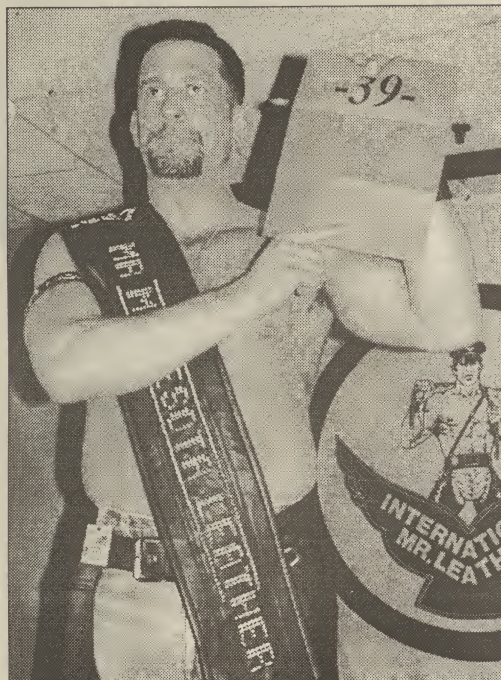
It's party time all around the town! Yuletide festivities, shopping, sending and receiving Christmas cards, hearing from people you haven't heard from in ages - it's all part of "the season," so to speak. The only Scrooge I've heard about is one particular former leather daddy, whose actions are seen as high and mighty, aloof and condescending...and viewed as an affront to most leather people and very embarrassing to all the other leather daddies. But enough unpleasantness. Except for our own leather Scrooge, the year progressed in fine fettle.

July

I forgot to mention last week that in June, the Phoenix Uniform Club's Leather/Uniform Ball at the Green Room was a big hit! Also, all 12 Bare Chest Calendar winners competed for the 1998 cover, and Mark Seeba won, with Ingu Yun the runner-up on the back cover. International Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon's Gathering of Eagles weekend in Berwyn, Penn., was a smashing success, with thousands of dollars raised for charities across the U.S. Will Clark of New York won the Mr. Northeast Drummer title. Former Ms. SFL Queen Cougar moved east to cohabit with Jill Carter and Viola Johnson. Joseph Bean moved to Chicago to assume control of the Leather Archives and Museum. Their farewell parties were back-to-back on the same night with huge crowds at both. Genelle Moore was named International Ms. Leather '98 in San Diego, but the travel fund scandal is still not resolved. Troy Taylor (Mr. D.C. Drummer) was named Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer, and Patrick Batt was named SF Leather Daddy XV. John Brown was named Mr. SF Drummer, and Joe Coloff, the Drummer Boy. Over 6000 people showed up for the Dore Alley Street Fair and kept SMMILE smiling all the way to the bank!

August

Steve Crouse and E Ticket were named Mr./Ms. Alameda County Leather. Cara Hanes became the producer of the International Mr. Drummer contest. Davien Nelson was named Mr. Ebony in Leather. Robert Conway copped the Mr. Southern California Drummer title in LA, and Thom Butts and



Mr. Minnesota Leather Kevin Cwayna drew No. 39 at IML, then went on to win the title over 52 other contestants.

Lynn Pierce were named Mr./Ms. Oregon State Leather. In response to the IMSL outcry, Shan Carr, a former IMSL, was named custodian of the travel fund with checks issued via Shades of Gray in Dallas. (What checks, Amy?) Strike Zone, the women's leather/SM conference was canceled. Orie Thompson was named Mr. Rocky Mountain Drummer in Denver, and J. Martin Ellis was the new Mr. Southeast Drummer in Atlanta. Jeffrey

Adler was named Mr. Florida Drummer; John Brown, Mr. Northern California Drummer; and Dan Hughes, his Drummer Boy. And on the last Sunday of the month, David Meyer took SF Leather Daddy's Boy honors, and Marga Gomez entertained, while Pat Batt and Donna ShROUT emceed magnificently! Late in the month, I finally got online, thanks to Race Bannon and Tim Wong, and now e-mail is pouring in daily. August was a busy month!

September

Castlebar, a favorite SM/play space closed down, and groups

utilizing the space are still scrambling for a venue. Hordes of people from around the world began arriving early for Leather Pride Week. The Drummer basket auction was switched to the newly opened Powerhouse. Fetish & Fantasy moved to 177 Townsend under the auspices of Marcus Wonacott, Daddy Irwin Kane and Audrey Joseph. Kyle Brandon's roast by the deaf leather community was an exercise in hilarity, and SMMILE volunteers were signing up by the hundreds. Cara Hanes' production of the Drummer contest was deemed a smashing success, and when Tim Wong and George Carreras added up the tallies, Jeffrey Adler of Miami was named International Mr. Drummer '97. The first runner-up was our own John Brown, and the second runner-up was Troy Taylor of Washington, D.C. The 14th Folsom Street Fair once again enjoyed the best weather and racked up \$150,000, which they disbursed to various beneficiaries. Mike McNamee's party was simply glorious, with Peter Greene making sure only leather people got in. Frank Vasconcellos and Karen Smith won the Inter-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Saturday, Dec. 27

The 15 Association's monthly play party. The usual hours, place, BYOB. Call 673-0452 for invite and location.

Sunday, Dec. 28

The GDIs host the Eagle beer bust, \$8, 1500-1800, with a leather baby contest, food, and Pushy Phyllis.

The TARC (Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center) hosts a beer bust at the Hole in the Wall, 1500-1800. No price given, but go!

Monday, Dec. 29

Cigar buddies beer bust at Daddy's, 2100-2400, \$7. Includes a free cigar.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Hey, it's New Year's Eve! Biggest party going is at Club Townsend with Crystal Waters. At midnight, \$1,998 in cash will be dropped from the ceiling. Champagne. Tickets are \$30 advance or \$35 door. The soiree by Club Universe and Pleasuredome goes until dawn. Call the hotline 985-5256. Order tickets by dialing 974-6020, prompt No. 2.

Sunday, Jan. 4

The last six Bare Chest Calendar guys will be auctioned off for dinner dates at the Eagle beer bust, 1500-1800, \$8. Your chance to win tickets to the Elton John concert and Beach Blanket Babylon, plus the American Brotherhood Weekend package, etc. Loads of fun. Don't miss this one!

SOCIAL SCENE

Lips unbound

by Sweet Lips

Dear gentle reader, you've no doubt noticed my appearance in this space for the second week in a row. After years of a biweekly column, you'll now have the pleasure of perusing me 52 times a year! Yes, it will be a veritable cavalcade of columns that I'm sure will bring us much closer together. My columnmate Mr. Marcus has generously deigned to donate a portion of his inches so this august event can take place. Mucho thanks to my favorite leather legend!

Grand Duchess Brandee Lane wants everyone to know that she's not only back on her feet but also back on solids as well! She sends out a special thanks to the lovely Tisha for administering the strict regimen of high colonics so necessary for her full recovery. Keep pushing the fiber, Brandee, but don't strain anything this time around!

The annual B.A.R. Christmas party was a true extravaganza as always. This year it was held at the famed *ristorante*, Eleven, on 11th Street, because, of course, the late, lamented Ivy's is no longer with us. The food was faboo and so was the staff, and I had a swell time (thanks for the chocolates, Mr. Publisher!), even though my tablemates were playing a furious game of footsie and kneesies the entire evening! A sad adieu to my

favorite Dennis "I'm just an old hippie street queen" Conkin and the illustrious Jane "Where are the boards, Michael?" Burke. Come on down to the Polk Rendezvous for a libation sometime, you two!

I have to give copious thanks to that ageless icon, Empress José I, who just had *her* diamond jubilee, for bestowing upon little me the most regal title of Empress de Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.

Can't wait for our next trip in February for all the fun. I love the crown, José!

On Christmas day itself, I'll be on the plank at the PR (9 a.m.-2 p.m.), so come join me for a glass of holiday cheer and my famous cheese and nut log!

That hirsute hangout, the Lone Star Saloon (1354 Harrison - "Bears, Bikers, Mayhem"), is serving up its annual Christmas dinner with all the trimmings at 6 p.m. If you're a true gourmand, you'll be there! Also, do partake of their raucous New Year's Eve blowout. Strange doings afoot on the patio - join in!

Polkstrasse aficionados will gather at Kimo's (1351 Polk) on New Year's Eve for the brand-new "El Escandolosa," featuring entertainment by inimitable South-of-the-Border female impersonators.

Kimo's Latino Night will now be a regular Wednesday event. Doors open at 9 p.m.; show starts at 10 p.m. (cover charge).

In addition, Kimo's will be ushering in the New Year with their latest review, "La Rouge," which boasts the finest female impersonators in SF. Doors open at 8 p.m., and the festivities start at 9 p.m. (cover charge).

The dynamic David Kapp has concocted a fantastic New Year's Eve Party for ye olde Polk Rendezvous.

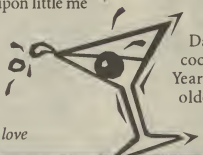
FLASH! One of Polk Street's most glamorous drag queens is coming out of retirement for this

soirée! It's a must-see, folks!

That nice George Banda has not been himself lately. Get well soon, doll. We're happy to know that the ever-lovely June is taking care of you.

The Sunrise Foundation's next wingding is Monday, Dec. 29. Bring a stuffed animal for the kiddies and receive a complimentary dessert, 6-9 p.m., Avenidas Restaurant, 199 Gough Street. Support this worthy cause!

Here's wishing you all a splendid Christmas and a memorable New Year! Best wishes in '98! (As for that first item in this column...well, it's never too early for April Fools! Right, emperor numero uno?) ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

national Cheeks and Chaps titles, and in far-off Lausanne, Switzerland, our own Mike Wieland judged the first-ever Mr. Leather Switzerland contest. The panel selected Alain Jeanneret of Zurich to compete at International Mr. Leather next May.

October

At Living in Leather in Portland, it was announced that *The Leather Journal* would become a nonprofit charitable group, with a board of directors who would govern the magazine and the Pantheon of Leather Awards. Darryl Lafayette was named Mr. Leather Holland. Stompers, the hot new boot store, celebrated its first anniversary. Gossip was rampant when an East Coast figure was spotted in more than one exotic place with a blond Kansas City leather titleholder, while his other half (a prominent leather store owner) was visiting San Francisco to see a cute little Latino dude (who apparently knows how to treat a daddy). Scott Voelte won the Mr. River Business Leather title in Guerneville; Daddy Erin Kelley, the Ms. Golden Gate Leather title; and Beth Downey had us in tears with her stepping-down speech. A handsome stud visiting from Switzerland copped the Best in Theme prize at the Eagle's Leather & Feathers competition, and the 49ers kept up their winning streak, but the best was yet to come.

November

Daddy's bar celebrated its second anniversary with three days of festivities, and Jerry Roberts was named Daddy of the Year. Rick Butler from LA won the Mr. Palm Springs Leather title. Two rubber contests in Chicago: Mr. World Rubber at the Chicago



Genelle Moore (middle) of Lincoln, Neb., flanked by Lisa Weismuller (left), first runner-up, and Diva Marie, second runner-up, won the International Ms. Leather title in San Diego in August.

Eagle and International Mr. Rubber at the Cell Block. Christoph Lehner won at the Cell Block; no word on Mr. World Rubber. Mr. Drummer Europe was won by Hervé Bernard of France. Bob Forbes won the Mr. Upstate N.Y. title. Jim Childress took the Mr. Maryland Leather title, and Bob Thurman the Mr. SF Bear title. (He later gave it up to his runner-up, John Asplund.) The D.C.-Eagle celebrated its 26th anniversary, and Wayne Nesbitt won the Mr. D.C.-Eagle title. While in Orlando, Fla., Ray Castro won the Mr. Leather Florida title. The BCC's Ingu Yun staged the very successful Hoedown at the Galleria Gift Center for the AEF. Bravo, Ingu!

December

And here we are! 'Tis the sea-

son and all that. Parties galore and a myriad of fundraisers! It was announced last week that the SF-Eagle will no longer produce the South of Market Bare Chest Calendar. Ownership has been signed over to SMMILE; all contests will be at the Powerhouse next year. The Golden Gate Guards had a great Xmas party at Sam Medrano's showcase residence. The Pediatric AIDS party at Club Townsend was a huge success, and it was kinks guest-bartending. Rumors abound about the SF-Eagle's name being changed to The 398, but nothing has been confirmed. There's more, but my deadline precludes telling you about it. Hey, have a joyous (and safe!) New Year's Eve, and I'll see you all next week. We are approaching the Year of the Tiger, so watch those claws! ▼

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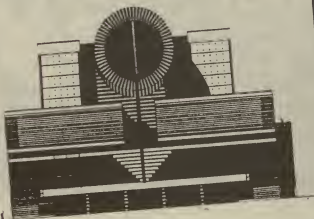
OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman

Er

TOGETHER WE CAN DEFEAT CAPITALISM



AUGUST 1997

199x

Even by the standards of its own deranged decade, 1997 was bizarre. The more you tuned into mainstream media, the spookier it all got. We had: Our very own rent boy/psycho serial killer who, when in SF, just loved drinking at the Midnight Slut and staying at the Mandarin Oriental; suicide cults with websites and black Nikes (just do it); allegedly murdering Pozole boys, and nannies who squeezed a little too hard. And the advent of cocktail therapy, which previously meant a gin martini straight up, very dry.

As you can imagine, celebrations of the new year are especially exciting and poignant to calendar editors. We're still hungover from the company Xmas party when we get bundles of press releases for the New Year's Eve parties. By New Year's, we're onto Valentine's Day. We know you keep writing 1997 on checks well into March, but that sort of absent-mindedness just won't do for a calendar editor. Our favorite advance listing alerts us to the imminent arrival of the Ansel Adams exhibition at SFMOMA in the fall of... 2001. Note to p.r. dept.: save it for the next millennium!

Meanwhile, we have to slog through endless reruns of the alien psycho year 1997, critics' "ten-best" lists, and "a look back" pieces. Here's ours: With all the fuss over public art proposals this year, the year's best public art in the city wasn't funded by the hotel tax fund or any nonprofit arts institution. Stickers began appearing on lampposts and ATMs this summer that proclaimed, "Together We Can Defeat Capitalism!" Optimistic for this late in the century, but still a nice rallying cry. Despite the stickers' depiction of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art directly below this slogan, sources at SFMOMA deny any involvement. ▼

Basket of Flowers

"America's dandiest Negro singer" Victor Dupree (Brent St. Clair) in cabaret, last perf. 10pm. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Big Bang

"And other rude noises," the New Pickle Circus's gala. Thru 1/4, call for times. Tonight at 7:30pm. \$12-22. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

A Christmas Carol

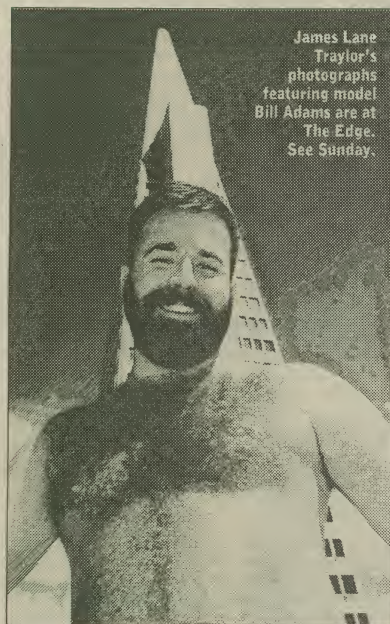
ACT presents the holiday play adapted from Dickens novel. Thru 12/28, call for times. Tonight at 7:30pm. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Christmas with the Crawfords

Artful Circle Theatre's musical romp with Joan Crawford and her children Christina and Christopher stars Michael Cameron Benbrook, Flynn De Marco, Connie Champagne, more. Wed.-Sat. thru 1/3, call for times. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 621-5455.

Comfort and Joy

Jack Helfner's comedy in the Hollywood Hills. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 1/3; no shows 12/24, 25, 31, 1/1. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.



James Lane Traylor's photographs featuring model Bill Adams are at The Edge. See Sunday.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thru 2/1, call for times, prices. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

GLBTAA Party

Gay, les, bi, trans African American support group for writers holds holiday party, readings by Rodney Washington, Rebecca Weems, more, free. 7pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 431-0891.

John McGivern Live

Monologues: growing up gay in Milwaukee. Fridays at 10:30pm thru 1/9. \$15. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Next Year In Sodom

The Eggplant Faerie Players in a circus-paced comedy with songs: a gay couple's Seder with Mom. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm. \$10. 848 Community Space,

848 Divisadero. 922-2385.

Nutcracker

Oakland Ballet in the holiday classic. Thru 12/28, call for times. Tonight at 7pm. \$10-36. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 762-2277.

The San Francisco Show

Photographs of the city by Paula Chamlee, Ken Miller, and Jerry Stoll. Thru 1/3. Scott Nichols Gallery, 49 Geary. 788-4641.

SF Games

Friendly card and board games open to all players, free. 7pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission. 679-3678.

Sat

Alaska Gold:

Life on the New Frontier ex-

hibition: photographs and artifacts of the final frontier. Thru 1/3. \$3. California Historical Society Museum, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x 14.

Bernard Maybeck

Drawings by SF radical romantic architect, thru 1/18. \$6. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

Between Culture and Commerce

Two years of prints, multiples and artist books by Rebecca Bollinger, Rex Ray, Carol Selter, more. Thru 12/31. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St. 626-7495.

Diva to Diva

Female impersonation open mike, hosted by Chablis, Sex-ilya Luvseat. \$5. Doors 9pm, show 10pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

F!#k Mickey Mouse

Ten cartoons from 1931-43 that react to Disney domination, part of festival of rare films. \$6. 8pm. (Also, "Bad Bugs Bunny" at 9:45pm; thru 12/29. Call for info.) 111 Minna Street Gallery, 111 Minna. 974-1719.

Hey Klezmeh!

SF Klezmer Experience and Davka give Hanukkah concert, shpiel by Josh Kornbluth. \$15. 8pm. Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College, Berkeley. 454-5238.

The Morgan Flagg Collection

Bay Area art: Elmer Bischoff, Joan Brown, Richard Diebenkorn, more. Thru 1/4. \$7. de Young Mem'l Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Bridget Schwartz, Julia Jackson. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Scott Williams

SF artist's large mural of the city in 2000, done by stencil technique. Thru 3/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Sharon McNight

Cabaret diva/actor/songwriter in holiday show. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 6pm thru 1/4. \$15. (12/31: 8&10pm, \$25) Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Star*Light

Antenna Theater's kaleidoscopic version of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, a performance environment. Fri.-Sun.

at 8pm; Sat. also at 10pm, thru 1/4. \$16-18. Marin Headlands Bldg. 952. 621-7797.

Sun

James Lane Traylor

Photography featuring model Bill Adams, thru 1/1. The Edge, 18th St. at Collingwood.

MACT Brunch

Men of All Colors Together's potluck, bring dish for 5 or more. 1pm. 2nd floor, Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

Mostra 97

Six Italian-American Photographers exhibit. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/18. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Open Reading

Jennifer Joseph hosts Xmas party reading, free. 8pm. Paradise Lounge, 1501 Folsom. 621-1911.

Mon

The Barbs

Deborah Colatti's interactive installation in the windows. Center for Visual Art, 713 Washington, Oakland.

Figurative Sculpture

With paintings and drawings. Richard MacDonald Galleries 445-A Sutter. 263-5490.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Sabrina Matthews, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

John LeFlore

Paintings and drawings, thru 1/1. Royal Ground, 2216 Polk. 474-5957.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy returns: Picasso meets Einstein. Thru 1/4, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$34-60. Herbst Theatre, Van Ness at McAllister. 392-4400.

Police Pictures:

"The Photograph as Evidence," identifying the criminal, thru 1/20. \$7. SFMOMA 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Sam Russell

Pseudo-religious oil paintings Thru 1/11. Quetzal, 1234 Polk.

Stag Party Special

Stag films and risqué rarities from 1915-50, includes Ed Wood Jr.'s "How To Keep a Husband." \$6. 9:45pm. (Part of festival of rare films, call for info.) 111 Minna Street Gallery, 111 Minna. 974-1719.

Viscous Expectations

Color photographs and duratrans by Cara Judea Alhadeff thru 12/31. 3rd fl., Veterans' Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 681-2624.

Wired Magazine:

"Selections from the Permanent Collection," printed and electronic versions of magazine layouts, thru 3/10. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

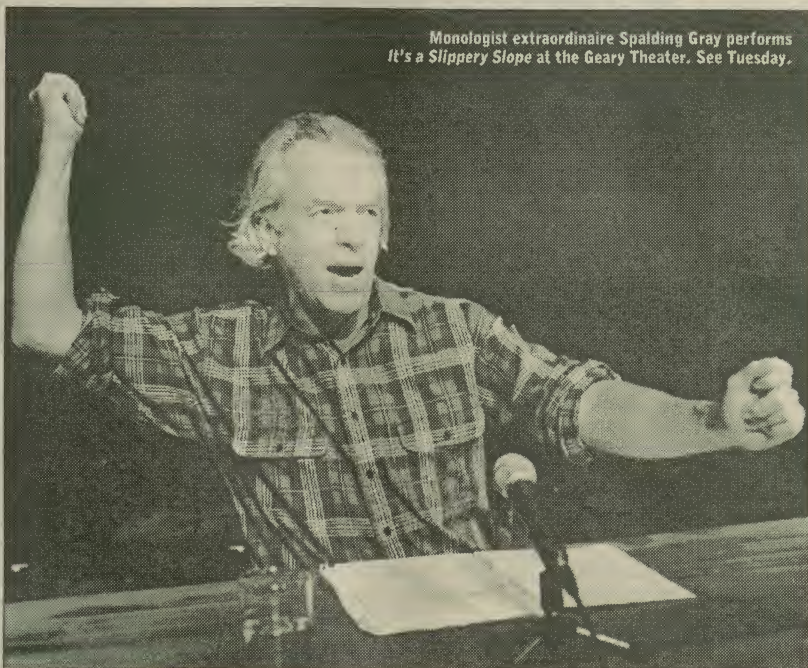
Tues

The Black Triangle

Photographs by Josef Koudelka, thru 12/31. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122

Christine Lafuente

Still lifes and interiors, thru



Monologist extraordinaire Spalding Gray performs *It's a Slippery Slope* at the Geary Theater. See Tuesday.

Paula Court

The Eggplant Faerie Players (left to right: Tomfoolery, Delilah, MaxZine) in *Next Year In Sodom* at 848 Community Space. See Friday.



12/31. Mulligan-Shanoski Gallery, 747 Post. 771-0663.

Endangered Species:

"Artists Examine Environmental Issues" exhibit includes William T. Wiley, Tom Marioni, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/31. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun. thru 2/15, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Hunter Reynolds

Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio*; nine artists in *To Be Real*. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

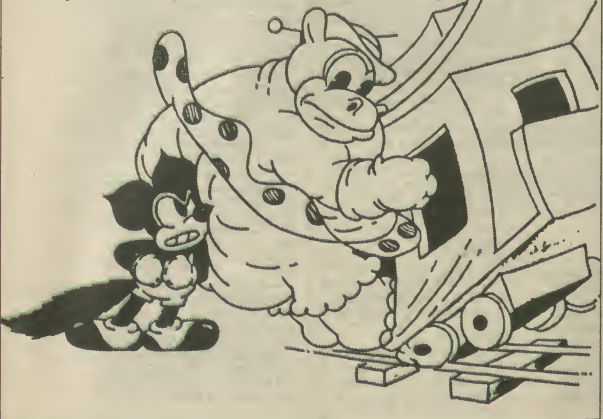
It's All True!

Film and video series challenging idea of reality. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/1. Museum admission \$5. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

It's a Slippery Slope

Spalding Gray's monologue:

Warner Bros.' blatant rip-off of Mickey Mouse, "Foxy" makes a rare screen appearance in *One More Time* (1932), one of the cartoons in *F!#k Mickey Mouse!* at Minna Street Gallery. See Saturday.



Martin O'Connor

mid-life crisis, death-defying skiing. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 1/4. \$15-35. ACT Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitation-al," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Stuart. 543-8880.

Not Fade Away

Photographs by Jim Marshall, thru Dec. Serge Sorokko Gallery, 231 Grant. 421-7770.

Over the Line

Drawings by J. Martin Rodriguez, Scooter, Tim Jag, more. Thru 1/7. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Picasso & Villers:

"The Diurnes Portfolio," exhibit of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Teapot Invitational

Teapots by ceramic and glass artists including Leah Hardy, Casey O'Connor, more; last day. Dorothy Weiss Gallery,

256 Sutter. 397-3611.

Wed 31

Anthony

Installation by Harrell Flethcer & Jon Rubin: *Life of Art* Institute student Anthony Powers, thru 1/25. Project Space, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical revue extravaganza, holiday performances. Call for times, tonight at 7&10:15pm. \$125. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon (formerly Green St.). 421-4222.

Bell Ringing Ceremony

Japanese tradition of striking temple bell to welcome the new year. 11am. Museum admission \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Biohazard

116th Annual Exhibition examines technological constructions, biological break-

downs. Thru 1/25. Walter/McBean Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 749-4588.

Masami Teraoka

Paintings that combine pop art and Japanese woodblock prints, addressing AIDS, sexuality, cultural identity. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/25. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

New Year's Concert

Community Music Center Orchestra and Chorus perform Beethoven's Ninth, more. Wed. at 10pm, Thurs. at 4pm. \$15. First Congregational Church, Post & Mason. 647-6015.

SNFYE

San Francisco New Year's Eve celebration features Boz Scaggs, Chris Isaak, more. \$98. 8pm. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove. 337-4346.

Shear Madness

Comedy whodunit set in uni-sex salon, holiday schedule. Two performances tonight; call for times, prices thru 1/4. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 982-5463.

Superior Bash

Party features Grooveline, Undercover S.K.A., Super-Fuzz, more, benefits Big Brothers/Big Sisters. 7pm. \$65. Fashion Center, 699 8th St. 675-4874.

Surrealist Costume Ball

Recreation of Parisian art student celebrations of the 30s, costumes encouraged. Prix Fixe dinner seatings: 6:30pm, \$50; 9:30pm, \$70. Ball only: \$20 at door, 8pm-2am. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market. 861-5016.

Train

Guitar-driven band plays New Year's Eve. \$100 for dinner seating, 9:30pm. \$15 without dinner. Elevee, 374 11th St. 431-3337.

Year-End Kiss-Off

Political humorist Will Durst hosts comedy show. 7:30pm: \$15. 10pm: \$25, includes champagne at midnight. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

Thur

Aftershock

After-hours dance party: men, music, muscle. \$25 advance, \$30 door, \$10 after noon. 4am(Wed. nite/Thurs. morn.)-4pm. 715 Harrison. 552-5900.

Black-Eyed Pea Dinner

Men of All Colors Together holds dinner and awards ceremony. Non-members, \$15. Call for location, time. 675-0201.

New Year's Buffet

Blackeyed peas and ham, Bloody Marys. \$4. 5pm. Cinch, 1723 Polk. 776-4162.

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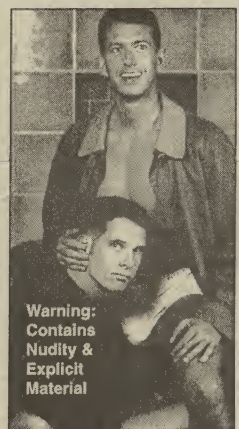
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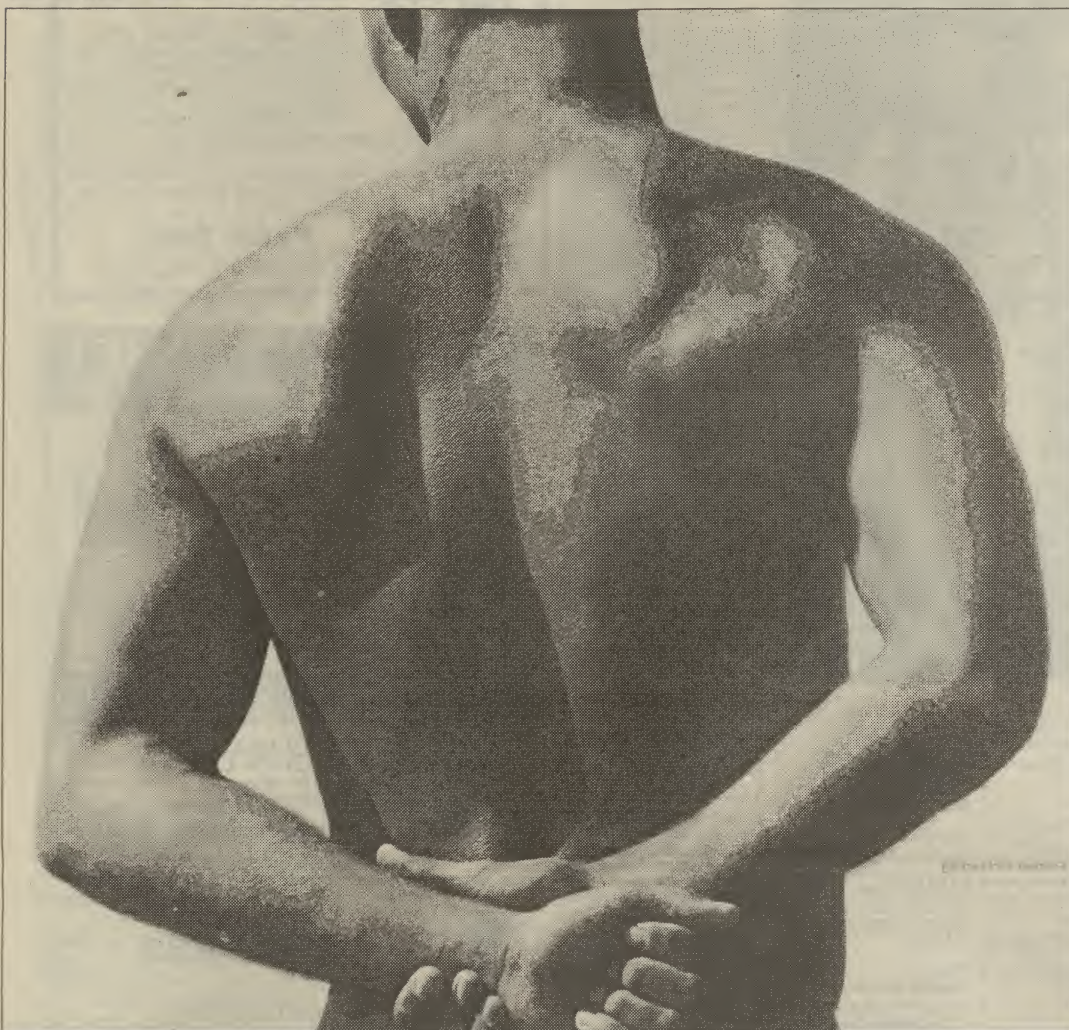
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How to meet a rich boy to love
I am a good-looking 41 year old gay white male interested in being a good husband to guys with a preference for leather bottoms, too. ☎ 9323

Seeking special man
GWM seeks on-going sexual relationship with sensual GM who enjoys being touched, handled, stroked, loved, massaged, and masturbated by another guy. I'm 53, 5'8, 175#, brn/blue, beard, HIV-. ☎ 9214

Poz bottom seeks Poz top
Good-looking, inshape, healthy, sexy, GWM, bottom ISO dom. top for possible LTR. I'm 35, 6', 165, 7.5u/c, goatee, short thinning hair. You be 32-42, masc. ☎ 9215

W/M 53 seeks daytime friend.
I'm a S.F. native. 5'11, 185# with night job. I enjoy interesting people. Older/younger/G/bi/STR welcome. I'm in Daly City and discreet. ☎ 9216

Testosterone
At first, I (attractive, sexy, GBM) admit, I really wanted power. But now, I don't know, maybe the trappings of power (attractive, tall, GWM) would be enough. ☎ 9217

Good communicator wanted
Handsome fun-loving GWM, early 30's, 5'11, br/bl, seeks intelligent, responsible, stable, mature, non-smoking caucasian/latin 30-40; must have varied interests and be good-natured, for possible LTR. ☎ 9218

Hispanic chub seeking LTR
Me: 6'1, 300#, smooth, blk/hzl, late 20s, clean cut. You: under 40, professional, easy going, fun, and masculine. Seeking chasers for LTR—seriously only. ☎ 9220

Lonely glam boy
Long blonde hair, loves West Hollywood, desires very oral friendship. Likes long hair videos, poker, black-jack, skiing. Nice body, sexually pleasing, late 30s. ☎ 9221

Attractive, Adventurous, & Rich
GWM, 40s, 5'8, 177, br/gr, clean-shaven. Extremely successful, happy, humorous, down-to-earth, loves life/people. ISO GWM/GLM for friendship, dating, sex. Be under 30, cute, thin. Me: top. You: bottom. ☎ 9222

Sex slave wanted
GWM, 5'7, masculine top, NS, HIV-, safe. You: HIV-, totally obedient, under 40, willing to give over control, B/D, S/M. My agenda, my way. Will train. ☎ 9314

Single...but looking
5'8, nice swimmers build, gym-toned, smooth, 31, Asian. Down to earth, friendly and sincere. Not hard on the eyes. Prefer men with dark features. No fems, drugs, or smokers. ☎ 9315

Looking for Mr. Moustache
Very handsome GWM, 30, muscular, masculine, down to Earth and good hearted, mostly bottom. Looking for masculine man with moustache who is mostly top and knows how to give and receive real love. ☎ 9316

Gay WM seeks fun
I am GWM 30ish, good lkg, energetic, and deaf seeking to share entertainment plus sport. I love to share laughter and good food. Please no screaming feminine, bawdy. If you are reading up to this point, let's go out and see if we can have a blast time! ☎ 9317

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 9318

Seeking love truth and a fuck
with an older man. Be affectionate, cultured anditerate. Am n politically correct or cynical tone. Adore wine, opera and coupling. GWM, 45, 180#, HIV-, 6'2, well-endowed bottom. ☎ 9320

Answer this one...
If you're serious about relationships. GWM, 38, 5'10, 150#, attractive, HIV-, masculine, stable, focus on career, now ready for fun and love, possible LTR. Versatile, mostly bottom. Seeks similar, 35-45, any race. ☎ 9321

You don't know how good you looked to me. You, big masculine, bearded I.C.U., evening. Me, lonely, too many cocktails, black robe, gold coin necklace. You, 5F Gen. Me out 4 hours. Love. ☎ 9322

Handsome bottom ISO top 4 LTR
attractive Greek/Hispanic, 5'7, 130#, 28" waist, bright, passionate, 33yo non-fem seeks in-shape manly man who is taller, 32-42, handsome and hung. Call for more details. ☎ 9324

Intelligent & muscular
GWM, muscular, 45, prof, financially secure w/ large home seeking masculine, muscular partner (20-40's) for articulate and intelligent conversation, outings, hot sex, travel and general misbehavior. Smooth muscular body a must! ☎ 9325

PARTING GLANCES

11/26 Noon blond at 18&Diamond
You: BBcap, blonde goatee, killer blue eyes. Me: BBcap, moustache, glasses. Booth looked, turned, looked again. Had appointment. Let's get together for movie/dinner? ☎ 9201

11/25 Tues at QT you: stripper
You said that I was cute, like to thank you personally. Me: 6'4" Latin, like to go further with the kiss you gave me. Loved your show. ☎ 9202

Bernie--Please call again
You answered my ad for "lean and muscular Asians," but I couldn't reach you at the phone number you left. Please call. ☎ 9203

San Jose air conditioning guy
We played at buddies on 11/1/97. 6am came fast and we had to leave. Want to finish what we were doing? I really want to play some more. ☎ 9204

Thanksgiving Day @ 18th/Castro
You: WM buying flowers for dinner in Santa Rosa. Me: AM in black car going to Pleasanton. We bid each other a safe trip and Happy Thanksgiving. Let's Meet!!! ☎ 9205

SunNov30SellingPlantsOn10thSt.
Had brief conversation. I live close by. I think you're very sexy. Let's talk. ☎ 9206

Matt
We partied for hours with two other guys Friday night 12/5. You wonderful butthole, hot mouth. Let's do it again. Call me, Robert. ☎ 9303

B at Daddy's Thurs. Nov. 20
Met you at the Constantines Bust. You were into anything, including a 3-way. You were great at it, we want you back in our sty. Call J & J. ☎ 9310

J-Church outbound 3 Dec.
9:05PM. U: cute, shorter dude (Jewish or Irish?), full beard & stache reading Chron re 49's. Me: sat beside ya trying to compose some thoughts. Would love to do coffee with you, can we? ☎ 9301

Pleasuredome at closing Dec. 7
You brown hairy, beard, baseball cap with friends forward left of bar. I the asian with friends by scaffold. We smiled. Would you like to meet? Maybe go dancing? Call ☎ 9302

Are you Bill?
You said no at 16th and Sanchez. You, short holding Tower Records bag. I was with a male & female friend. Would like to know your name and more. ☎ 9304

David Folsom Gulch 12/6 1100AM
You pulled up in red Isuzu as I walked in. We were fast, furious, and very hot. I would love longer repeat. If you would too, call me. ☎ 9305

Civil Sex Fri, Nov. 28
I was standing in line ahead of you w/ motorcycle helmet. You barely made it in, ended up in front row. Would to ride w/ me sometime? ☎ 9306

Darrin from Seattle
We met at Pasqua's last Christmas. Bought crackers and went for a walk. I'm the guy with the flannel sheets. Want to get together? Can't stop thinking of you. ☎ 9309

Mike Blowbuddies 11-22
Played with you in maza, you--nice us dick. Sorry I didn't get your number, would like to play again.--Larry ☎ 9307

Mike: met at A Different Light 12/3.
Took walk, talked about turn-ons. You: smart, sharp, sexy, under-employed Ph.D., Singaporean-born Chinese. Me: short, trim, goateed, Jewish guy. Still awaiting your call.--Randy ☎ 9308

Dec 7 21st at Eureka
You carrying black bag--me walking little dog--we both turned around a couple of times checking each other out--would love to connect. ☎ 9311

Robert in St. Mary's T-shirt
We met at Hollywood Books in Oakland on Mon 12/8. Kissing and caressing your body was fantastic. Let's meet again for an extended session of cuddling, kissing, and??? In comfort. ☎ 9312

Phil-Friday Dec. 5
Enjoyed meeting you at Berkeley SW around midnight. Wish we had exchanged numbers and not left the next time to chance. Tony ☎ 9313

Thur 12/11 1PM J-Church
You: cute Asian guy in blue shirt sitting by the window. Me: white guy in red sweatshirt. Got off @ 16th, would like to meet you. ☎ 9401

Chains at Cliff's Variety, Castro Dec. 9th--you: handsome blonde,
leather, gray hankie right, buying chain. Me: dark hair, leather, rebel cap. I'm a gray hankie left. We looked at each other several times. Wow. Please call. ☎ 9404

Justin from Seattle
I followed you around the Castro. Met again later at the beach. Watched the Love Boat com e in. Want to get together? Can't stop thinking of you. Please call. Josh. ☎ 9402

24th St Just for fun 12/13/97
You said hi, plaid shirt, you said it was crowded, I said yeh. Saw you going into Starbuck's, said hi again. ☎ 9403

Asian smile @ Sausage Factory
You: cute Asian guy (with woman) who smiled walking by my table (Sausage Factory, Tuesday, 12/9, 9PM) As I (Blond WM) dined with Asian friend. Dinner for just us? ☎ 9405

Sat 12/13 18th at Castro 4PM
You paused to look at Garland. I was being rushed by a friend. Would like to say hello when I'm not hurried. Me: tall wearing blue shirt and goatee. ☎ 9406

Indian Summer, GoldenGateBridge
No one ever treated me so nice. You, blond, dazzling green eyes, me, long brown hair, long face, big lips. Pls. call. ☎ 9407

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Sonoma Co. country bear buddy
Seeks other well-endowed, tough-titled, hairy, muscled brains for consensual play. Me: GWM, 50, 5'10, stocky, cute, silver beard. Prefer mutual deep throat head. You: rigid honey shaft, willing & able. ☎ 9213

Handsome muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2, 185lbs., into fitness, travel romance and quiet times. Seeks another HIV-, extremely well-hung Latin man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9207

Love dominant tops
GWM 45, 165#, 6', seeks men who are aggressive in bed, especially for long time fucking on regular meetings. Yours for pleasure+sex. ☎ 9208

I want you!!
Wanted: one GWM bottom 48-55 yrs who wants more than a one night sexual healing. Offered: one GBM top, late 40's ISO ongoing bed partner or LTR. I'm affectionate, articulate and communicative. ☎ 9209

Feel my body, taste my passion,
quench my desire and fulfill me. GWM, 38, 5'7, 140, shaved head, moustache, goatee and tattoos. ☎ 9210

When a man needs a man...
Sounds familiar? Well, we've something in common. Attractive GAM, mid 30's, affectionate, romantic, fun ISO tall goodlooking GWM, 30's, sim. qualities for love, friendship, outdoors & more. ☎ 9211

A good home
offered to trim, honest guy under 30 by adventurous, fun-loving, masculine guy. Interest in long-term relationship, travel and art a plus. ☎ 9212

Cute guy seeks cute guy
26yr cute alternative shy guy tired of clubs seeking others, hanging out, films, music, Beastie Boys, shows, art. Ready for more, 150, br/br, laid back yet adventurous. ☎ 9319

Passionate lover seeks same
Me: 40ish, handsome, hung good shape, affectionate top, great kisser, HIV+, spiritual seeker. You: 30ish, goodlooking, slim, passionate about life (& hopefully me). Loves making love, honest and sincere. ☎ 9326

32man seeking man over 65
32years old, 5'10, 163#, loving & affectionate & clean, not into bar. Like ocean, quiet evenings. Seeking loving and romantic man over 65 for LTR. ☎ 9327

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino, 32 y/o dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37 y/o for friendship or more. ☎ 9408

Eak the Cat
20 GWM, student. Others my age for friendship/sex/love. Understand each other, trust each other. Let's tell the world to go let together. Cigarettes are all we need. V.V.LVR. ☎ 9409

Mature bear seeking a cub
GWM, HIV-, 50, hairy, balding bear, 5'11", 210#, uncult seeks younger smaller cub, uncult, big balls, red-heads a plus, for friendship and stimulation. ☎ 9410

A New Year Resolution
Horny and handsome GWM, 40s, (looks 30s), HIV-, 5'9, 165, realistic and romantic. Seeks loving young handsome guy to mate with. ☎ 9411

Need a Dad?
Nice looking 60y/o hthy GWM masculine 5'8, 180, br/H, beard, seeking GWM masculine/submissive guy. ☎ 9412

Hairy top in Marin
Clean cut country boy, 45, 5'10, 180#, HIV+, happy and healthy, seeks a buddy 35-45 who is in good shape physically and mentally for shared fun time. ☎ 9413

Tired of too much of nothing
Fit the gap, 27 HM versatile bottom healthy HIV+ 175# ISO hung versatile top W/HM 25-35 for cuddling talking and the usual stuff lovers do. ☎ 9414

Attractive Chicano guy
26, 5'7, 165#, muscular, stocky build. Seeks Latins or Whites under 39 for friendship maybe more. I like movies traveling and nonsmokers. ☎ 9415

Romantic Latino seeks GWM
for LTR. Me, honest, mature, funny, down to earth, versatile, 37, 5'10, 150#, blk/blk, HIV+, healthy. Enjoy touching, movies, music, dinner, gym. You proportionate 30-40 ND NS. ☎ 9416

Hi! I'm a regular guy
ready to meet someone cute, sincere, exciting, but how? Here? I'm 37, masc., goodlooking, 5'11, 162#, HIV-, like to work out, read literature, walk beach and forest. Prefer smaller, sexually bottom, Asian and men of color my age or younger. ☎ 9417

Step 1-Physical attraction
SBM, 34, 6'/200, tan, bearded, HIV-, solid build, ISO beefy guy w/big butt, thick cut, 30-40, HIV-. Step 2-compatibility. Good conversation, mutual respect, lazy weekends. Step 3-... ☎ 9418

Master knows the mark
of a true slave is open mouth fuck hole. Desire responsible companion, H/Wt proportionate, single, HIV-. Master's commanding, not sadistic, handsome 42, 5'10, 170#, br/bl, HIV-. ☎ 9419

Human to human
Willing to open up and risk heartache for one brief moment of sincerity. I've had many things but have yet to find romance. Stats are boundaries. ☎ 9420

Seeking cowboy
ISO laid-back cowboy kind of guy, nice, in-shape, with interests, HIV-, about my size, masculine, sense of humor, late 30's-40's; I'm 5'7, 150, 43, attractive, for dating. ☎ 9421

Holiday warmth
Truly handsome SGWMP, 44y/o, 6', 185#, strk-d-bnde-blue eyes, unique multi-talented, fun, compassionate, guy's guy seeks SGWM 24-38y/o, goodlooking, playful, unaffected, dark hair A+. Dating: goal LTR. ☎ 9422

In and out of bed friendship
Me: hot Hsp, 41, 5'11, 165#, mostly top, who works out, in great shape. You: hot, Cau, to 45, bottom, in good shape and needs a new friend. ☎ 9423

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Questions only you can answer:
Am I your best cocksucker ever? Will I get you to shoot your biggest load yet in drilling spurts? Let's find out soon! ☎ 9223

Asian/Happa muscle tribe
You are muscular, defined and way into sharing your body in a safe and nurturing brotherhood of sensual creativity. Shy to assertive; grow at your own pace. Call for details. ☎ 9224

Cowboy leather S&M
Hot 6'2 225# w/ full cowboy gear (chaps, spurs, boots, etc.) wants man with same interest for sex and s/m (crops, whips, etc.) fantasy ☎ 9225

Hung guys wanted!!!! I'm looking for guys who are hung 9 inches or better for fun and good times. ☎ 9226

Raunch buddies wanted by masc. WM 35 into dirty butt plowing, mutual scat scenes, do public bathrooms turn you on too? ☎ 9227

Mulatto guy sexy intelligent, educated, good-looking, light-skinned, I'm looking for the right guy for fun and good times. ☎ 9228

Wanted: big firm butt
Versatile, 5'11, well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/a big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 9229

Round solid chunky beefy butts
Colossal, herculean butts sought for mutual oral pleasure. HIV- a must. Possible 3-ways. Smooth and slim preferred but not exclusive. Age and looks no problem. ☎ 9230

"1953 Big Taurus" fully loaded
Big 8 in the floor, clean tailpipe, firm bumper. Curb weight 180#. Wheelbase 5'11. Mocha exterior with sheepskin seat covers-seeks young driver with big hands and feet. ☎ 9231

Tired of women
50 year old WM 6 feet 185# HIV- and healthy, recently divorced wants to explore safe sex with a man. ☎ 9232

Hot piece of ass wanted
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, 38, 190#, 6'1, great shape! Seeks boys/ men 25-45, thin to muscular, hard body required, who like to service dick and get fucked. Not S&M. ☎ 9233

Uncut men only
GWM, 39, 6', 180, uncut and well-endowed would like to meet other in-shape uncut men 25-50 for adventure. ☎ 9234

Oakland guy wants black top(s)
to service. Me: 5'11, WM, HIV-neg, to work up your cock and balls with my throat and ass. Let's "get-together." ☎ 9235

Gourmet cocksucking
has nothing to do with how big your meat is but everything to do with how big your load is. I'm real good at getting you to shoot more than you thought you could. ☎ 9236

On your knees, boy!
Masc, musc, GWM, 40's, seeking musc boy to train. Lots of rope, leather, and chain assures obedience, and a playroom assures privacy. You: 20's to 40's, hard muscular, smooth body that can handle a good workout. ☎ 9237

Looking for Latinos, low hangers, oral, Asians, geeks, foreskin, tattoos, ass spanking, perky nipples, versatile, fun dudes with moderate to no body hair. ☎ 9238

Fun for the holidays
GWM masculine man with facial and or body fur wanted for goodlooking GWM stach, br/or, 43, mod fur, 5'8, 150, athletic. LT br-blond A+. ☎ 9328

ISO hot man fuck sex
Very goodlooking GWM 30, bottom (HIV-neg) wants hot top weight-height prop. with facial hair to have wild yet sane get togethers. I'm all masculine wanting same. NS, ND, hairy bodies a plus. Let's just do it. ☎ 9339

Hey boys with big toys and ears
WM very masculine dominant top seeks a submissive bottom boy with a hungry hole, big dildos and a craving for heavy duty regular phone sex. ☎ 9329

Seeking discreet lowbuddys
Professional business mens group. Santa Rosa-Sebastopol area-private club, home, carry plenty of liquid, cheese, arom to share same. ☎ 9330

Whack it off
Do you like to give hand jobs??? GWM, 51, 5'8, 175#, brn/blue, beard, HIV-, wishes to get jacked off by another guy. ☎ 9331

Senior GWM
60's, 5'6, 135#, in search of any age race size to obey my commands. Mid-peninsula. My place. ☎ 9332

Always horny? Get sucked!
Hot mouth, tongue takes loads from slim, trim, well-hung guys. Multiple loads A+. ☎ 9333

How many ways can I say...
I wanna eat your ass. Late Castro night sex 12-5am by hot, Italian stud, 44, 6', 190, goatee. Can suck ass for hours. ☎ 9334

Ready to be fucked.
If you are an "experienced" top and you want to fuck it real...I'm ready for you. GBM, shaved, goatee, 39, 5'11, 147#, w/aa ass that's always ready 2B fucked. Call now. ☎ 9335

The Tao of the showtune
Acclaimed/vocal couch sought by self-proclaimed star for benefit performances. Union scale + prof. oral exotic massage therapy. ☎ 9337

Cock slave wanted
I want a cock slave who will suck my dick for hours/days. Also into fucking, FF, WS, bondage, etc. Have sling, bondage bar, toys, etc. Take care of my dick, I'll take care of your needs. ☎ 9338

Ready to be fucked
If you are an experienced top and you want to fuck it raw...I'm ready for you. GBM, masc, tri, goatee, 39, 5'11, w/a ass that's always hot, wet and ready to be fucked. Call now. ☎ 9340

Voyage to Uranus
Cleancut GLM seeks bottom GWM & GIM 25-40 into having their clean, smooth hot rears safely checked out with toys/non-scat or leather/HIV-call for probe launch. ☎ 9341

Afternoon sex buddy wanted
Early evening too. Sex: assmassage-erotic spanking, me: attractive GWM, 46, 6'5, 250#, football players build. Oral topman. You: attrac GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body-hair, nice buns. ☎ 9342

Wanted= Str8 WM 18-20
In between girlfriends/bi-curious. Musc, well-built H.S./college footballer, wrestler, lifter, bodybuilder a plus! Watch hot vids, easy going dude gives massage+more! Safe, discreet. Call Ricky now! ☎ 9424

ISO Sonoma county top men
Experienced anally centered bottom needs to give it up. Fit, GWM military-western goodlooks GIV- into CBT, NT Dildoes, FF, smoke aroma safer play in my equipped playroom. ☎ 9425

My New Year's resolution
To respond to all GWM's, 35-45 who are masc., hairy and willing to get involved with sexy Italian, 40, Hairy, hung, topshin in a LTR. ☎ 9426

GWM needs hung GBM
I am 6'2, 165#, nice looking, wishes to service GWM with my deep throat and bottom for hours. Tell me your pleasures, I will obey. ☎ 9427

Kick back and let me
suck your ass and swallow your cock by hot Italian bottom, 44, 6', 190, goatee-late night sex 12-5AM, Mon-Fri. Check it out. ☎ 9430

Big men and dildos
GBM, 5'11, 240#, big tits, hung seeks big and heavy-set men into mutual dildo pleasure. Only big and fat men with big tits, belly and butt. ☎ 9428

I want to fill you up!!!!
with 8 inches of hard uncut fat meat. You are a serious bottom who wants to play with a hairy, blonde, 38 y/o top. Give a call. ☎ 9429

Santa Rosa area blk tops
Fit, experienced GWM bottom ready for sophisticated, safer winter games CBT, NT, FF, Dildoes, smoke, aroma ok; extraordinarily aggressive head. ☎ 9431

Boy 2 men
Charming Oakland boy, HIV+, 28, 5'7, seeking financially secure, tall, masculine, clean-cut, attractive man, 30-45. Looking for crazy outgoing, fun people to enjoy evenings and weekends. ☎ 9432

All I want for Christmas is
The color of an ivy league school, the shape of a central american fruit, produced by a siegfried top, to be consumed by a pig. ☎ 9433

LESBIAN

Let me hang on your every word
Serinate you-fall all over myself trying...I'm not like all the other soft-butches. Try me, I wear lace when I scream your name. ☎ 9343

FETISHES

Sexy stud required
38 y/o goodlooking hard-bodied athlete ISO obedient slave to own. Need to be expert cocksucker. Be into ranch, verbal abuse. Kneel naked at my feet, make me proud. ☎ 9239

Sexy hairy daddies N2 TT, FF
Need to sip/slurp w/40-60 yrs. FF+GMM, GWM, Levi/leather w/ facial hair. Me: GBM, 6'1, 200#, sh/s/p hair, 4 enema, TT, dildo, FF explosion. Versatile* ho, ho, ho!!! ☎ 9241

Attention huge nipples!
Wanted by hot, muscular 39yr old. I will service them for you. I'm very good at what I do, suck, lick, pull, etc. the bigger, the freakier, the better. Serious only. ☎ 9242

Hot guy w/ toe ring sks barefoot
buddy. Masculine, tan, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 5'8, 140#, HIV-, craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body cleanliness, safe JO, fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles ok. Further friendship possible. ☎ 9240

Hot trades ass for humiliation
Circumcised men (chubby ok) are welcome to fuck (with condoms). An otherwise straight WM humiliation play, if willing to verbally abuse, spit and piss on him without apology or hesitation. ☎ 9243

Head and rim in Sonoma county
Nice looking, generous middle-aged "dadd" loves giving oral service to tender or medium built guys, 18-35. No reciprocation. Daytimes best. meet first, then your place or mine. ☎ 9244

Santa, I've been good and bad!
Now I need a real Polar-bear Santa to tell me so. Where are you beautiful silver-haired bears with the red and white furry cap? You sit in your chair and let this goodlooking guy work you over until you Ho! Ho! Ho! ☎ 9245

Big pigslut 4 ranch top 2 use
GWM, 40, 5'9, 250#, brown/hazel, goatee, big chest, handsome. Total pig bottom ISO all dominant, sweaty men to use my hot holes, age, race, looks, size unimportant. All answered. ☎ 9351

Stud butthole lick
Muscular jock with rimseat, looking for a stud who likes his asshole worshipped by a hot, obedient tongue. Verbal abuse a big plus. ☎ 9246

Hot pig 44yrs ISO: lean leather
bottoms and daddyboy, master/slaves for heavy, WS, BD, oral abuse, urinal duty, spilin, slapin, humiliation. Lean n' leathered, serious only. ☎ 9344

Pig bottom for top fist
Insatiable hole for intense fisting, WS, leather, dark alleys, outdoors, showing off, looking for hairy masculine rugged marathon top. ☎ 9345

Feetseerscksthsngs and more
Attractive Latino 31, 190, 5'11, dark features, Virgo, size 12, HIV-, NS, would like to meet Latins or Whites under 35, NS, ND, into foot fetish, size 11 plus. ☎ 9346

Muscle worship
WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing and having his muscles worshipped. Like defined biceps, hot pecs. Asians/blacks a+. ☎ 9347

Tit pig
Huge nipples wanted for hot sessions. My toys and technique are unsurpassed. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 9348

Scat top
Normal guy, 36, 6', 165#, inshape, HIV-, goodlooking, etc., wants smaller, younger, inshape, boyish, HIV- guy who eats it all, sucks, gets fucked, eats messy butt. ☎ 9349

Bondage bottom needs
young creative top who has desire to put bondage and humiliation together. Limits are mostly bound by lack of imagination, keep my ass exposed in sling, call. ☎ 9350

Be my whore
Dominant, attractive, top, 40, hung big, seeks cocksucking, buttfucking bottom-boy to use like a whore. No SS, just verbal abuse and humiliation. ☎ 9352

Seeking FF & dildo bottom
GWM, HIV+, 38y/o, 5'10, 210#, furry, pierced, tattooed. Into full leather & latex including hoods & gloves. Into intense butt play, etc. Seeking bottom with similar interest for sex, fun and dating. ☎ 9354

Suck piss cock
WM, mid-50's seeks clean, healthy beer drinker with big uncut cock only 45-55. I lick suck drink. No reciprocation no bottoms no daytime. Your place. ☎ 9355

Farm dirt play
wanted by ranch guy. I am looking for dirty tricks at the farm. I am dgkg, 40's, 6'1, 185#, and a very horny animal. ☎ 9356

East Bay
Nude cut White-latin men wanted with big clean feet, I would start at your toes then around the world? 50's hot mouth and tongue. You will love it. ☎ 9357

Underwear
Turns software to hardware. Let's strip and exchange underwear, see what else happens. You know you love it. Funky ok, but no skid marks. ☎ 9358

The ultimate tit torture
Hogtie and gag me, torture my tits, jerk me off. Sexy 35y/o blue eyes, clean shaven, in shape. My age or younger please. ☎ 9359

Leather top ISO trim boy-slave
WM, 40's, 6', 160#, will train very submissive boy in bondage, bootlicking and obedience. You will spend time hooded, gagged and plugged. Hairless and pierced a plus. ☎ 9439

Big hunk says feed me fist me
Hot, built hunk, 34, with big hole and hungry mouth into scat, WS, FF. You be in good shape, a little heavy ok. A belly is a+. Uncut a+. ☎ 9360

In search of slave
LTR for submissive GWM under 35, 5'10 or less with slim tight body to include BD, SM, boot worship, dog training. Must be loyal, obedient and submissive. Tats, piercings and brains A+. ☎ 9434

Butt play
32y/o hot bottom loves laying on a sling and having my butt played with. Lookin for guys willin to open my butt whitt toys, dildos, and FF. ☎ 9435

Daytime asshole eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 9353

Seeking Black/Latin top
32y/o, 6ft tall, 170#, smooth, 8" uncult seeks well hung Black/Latin top to plow my ass. ☎ 9436

Rubbermen
Rubberman with gear for light scenes through full encapsulation wants to meet other rubbermen. ☎ 9437

Leather bottom seeks top(s)
Experienced, masculine, good looks/build seeks firm but sane "trainer" for bondage and S+M sessions. ☎ 9438

COUPLES

Crazy sexy cool
White guy smooth, great shape, healthy HIV 30's, seeks adventures with GM couples. Interracial especially desired. Unwrap me under your Christmas tree. ☎ 9247

Straight voyeur has fantasy
Mature WM wants to watch couples get it on stopping short of climax and jerking off first one load then the other on my face while I masturbate. ☎ 9248

GWM bear couple ISO 3rd/cpls
Goodlooking, tall, blk (250#), hairy, masculine, dark hair, goates, HIV-, ISO all masculine versatile men who enjoy being with big bear types for safe fun and maybe more. ☎ 9249

GM couple 27 new to Bay area
Want to meet other GM couples 20/30's. NS/drug free, not into club scene. Enjoy talks over dinner. Walks, hiking, travel and the holidays. ☎ 9250

Middleman seeks couple
Handsome Italian, 40, 6', HIV-pos, goatee, usually bottom, can be versatile, seeks couple for occasional or regular play. you are 25-45, secure in relationship, horny and imaginative. ☎ 9251

Sexy freaky couple
HIV-free: Chicano, 27, Japanese, 26, ISO other young Latino or Asian. Interests include film, performance art, respect, honesty, fulfillment, community building and cultural revolution. No drugs or alcohol. Down. ☎ 9252

Two for one
Lovers seek third for dating, relationship, sex. 6', 45, slender, beard, mainly top and 6'3", 42, slender, beard, mainly bottom. Enjoy movies, dinners, travel. Don't smoke or do drugs. ☎ 9440

OTHER

Class act!
Educated, articulate, fun-loving accomplished GW 44 yo prof. seeking similar for companionship at classical concerts, theatre, barn-raising and ice cream socials. While I am not seeking romance or sex, whenever destiny manifests, I harken to its call. Age ethnicity or shoe size unimportant. ☎ 9151

Rose Bowl trip
Michigan grad, fan seeks similar for Rose Bowl trip. Cheer the Wolverines on to victory. I'm GM, 37. ☎ 9253

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Rediscovering 'Swee' Pea'

Billy Strayhorn bio goes to paper, inspires new recordings and a film

by Bob Roehr

There is something in the air about Billy Strayhorn, something that says it's his time," said David N. Baker when last summer he led the Washington, DC-based Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra in a series of summer concerts celebrating Strayhorn's music. The flurry of activity is tied to David Hadju's *Lush Life: A Biography of Billy Strayhorn*, which has garnered so many rave reviews the book has gone to paperback (North Point Press, \$15) and will soon be made into a major Hollywood film.

Strayhorn's success in the world is no small feat considering the many strikes against him. He was born in 1915, poor, black, and gay. Still, his enormous musical talent seemed apparent virtually from the start. At the tender age of 11, young Billy decided he needed a piano in order to learn how to play. He earned the money by selling newspapers and running deliveries for a neighborhood drug-

store in Pittsburgh.

During the depths of the Depression he attended a high school where he learned French, became an accomplished classical pianist, and wrote and produced his first musical review. He became an immaculate dresser, a dedicated sophisticate, and an inveterate reader of *The New Yorker*. He also penned the melancholy "Lush Life," which later became a hit for, among others, Diana Ross, Donna Summer, and most recently Linda Ronstadt. It begins:

I used to visit all the very gay places,
Those come what may places
Where one relaxes on the axis
Of the wheel of life
To get the feel of life
From jazz and cocktails.

At 23, young Strayhorn introduced himself to the already immortal Duke Ellington, whose big band was playing a gig in Pittsburgh. "Mr. Ellington, this is the way you played this number in the show," he said, sitting down at the

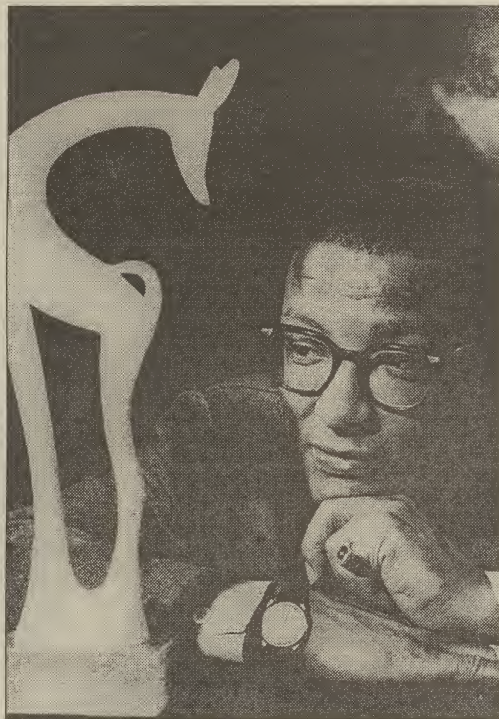
piano and perfectly imitating the master's version of "Sophisticated Lady." "Now, this is the way I would play it." Ellington was enthralled by what he heard and gave the kid an assignment, then another. By the end of the week, when the band packed up, Strayhorn had been offered a job, but with no clear duties and no fixed starting date.

Weeks of anxious waiting ensued. Then Ellington sent word to meet him in New York. Duke had scribbled directions to his Harlem residence on a piece of paper. Strayhorn turned them into a song, the unforgettable "Take the A Train." Those opening chords are among the most recognizable ever written, and the song would later become the band's signature tune. Soon the crew had dubbed him "Swee' Pea," after the impish, diminutive baby in the popular Popeye comic strip.

Songs and arrangements flowed effortlessly from Strayhorn's pen: "Chelsea Bridge," "Rain Check," "Passion Flower." And in tandem with Ellington, each one of these masterpieces is a testament to their brilliant collaborative efforts. Strayhorn brought sophisticated knowledge of classical music to his efforts with Ellington, often blending the exotic harmonic language of Claude Debussy (one of Strayhorn's favorite composers) with Duke's more down-to-earth blues.

More than a few observers of the Ellington/Strayhorn collaboration, however, have noted that Ellington actually contributed little to many of the songs bearing his name as author or co-author. In fact, Strayhorn lived almost completely in Ellington's shadow. The confusion over who created what was largely the result of a public relations machine that refused to see Ellington as anything but a suave leader, a known quantity the public could instantly recognize. Strayhorn, who was shy and retiring throughout his life (he seldom played with the band or accompanied it on the road), would hardly have sold records on the basis of his public persona.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Strayhorn lived an openly gay life at a time when few people



Billy Strayhorn, circa 1960

dared do so. Soon after moving to New York, he set up housekeeping with another pianist, Aaron Bridgers. Together, the two moved in both gay and straight circles and assumed they would be treated like a couple wherever they went. "I'm not going to change for anybody, and if they don't like it, that's their problem," Strayhorn once told a friend.

In the early '60s, Strayhorn met Martin Luther King Jr. and instantly became active in planning and performing at big fundraisers. In 1963, he accompanied his close friend Lena Horne to an NAACP rally in Jackson, Mississippi. Their host, Medgar Evers, apologized for not putting them up, but his home had recently been fire-bombed. Less than a week after their visit, Evers was shot to death.

Strayhorn's vices — excessive drinking and smoking — caught up with him soon thereafter. He spent the last years of his life fighting esophageal cancer. And like gay men who would fight AIDS decades later, those struggles are reflected in several of his last music efforts, including "Upper Manhattan Medical Group (U.M.M.G.)," and his final song, "Blood Count." He died in 1967 at the age of 51.

Hollywood is now trying its hand with a film version of Strayhorn's life. Denzel Washington will reportedly play Duke Ellington and Will Smith, Strayhorn. While Smith bears little physical resemblance to the diminutive Strayhorn, it will be a small price to pay if the movie leads more people to Strayhorn's legacy of brilliant, sophisticated music. ▼

Listening to Strayhorn

Lush Life: The Billy Strayhorn Songbook (Verve 314 529 908-2) is a set of 15 classic cuts, vocal and instrumental, from the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Dizzy Gillespie, and Oscar Peterson. It has the strengths and weaknesses of a compilation in which styles and approaches vary.

Portrait of a Silk Thread (Koko 1310) offers "newly discovered works" recorded by The Dutch Jazz Orchestra. As a group dedicated to preserving various forms of jazz, these players mimic the styles of others but haven't developed their own. Their sound, while technically impressive, lacks heart and soul when compared to bands with their own signature sound.

Duke Ellington ... and his mother called him Bill (RCA/Bluebird 6287-2-RB) was recorded in 1967 as a tribute to Strayhorn, who had only recently died. Performed by perhaps the greatest collection of jazz soloists ever assembled, the record epitomizes Big Band sound in all its power, glory, and glamour. It's tight, sweet, and played from the heart.

Passion Flower by Fred Hersch (Nonesuch 79395-2) offers a more contemporary feel and a personal interpretive approach to Strayhorn's songs. Hersch's liquid solo piano is sometimes backed by a trio, and at times by string arrangements. Hersch, who is openly gay and a longtime survivor of HIV, draws strongly from jazz and classical music traditions.

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Out There

◀ page 31

about big naughty Rawhide Bar owner Ray Chalker. Seems the sour puss of Seventh Street recently went postal on one of his regular patrons. "He was raving and raging in my face," our chum said of the distempered one, who is better known in these parts as the publisher of a queer newspaper he ran into the ground. "He confronted me in his bar and told me I was no longer welcome."

And what, pray tell, had our friend done to deserve this bitter remonstrance? "He said I'd requested a song the week before that he didn't like." Gee, wonder if the tune in question might have been that old Sex Pistols number about an abortion that lived? (Just kidding, Ray.)

Newsflash: just in from the **Grand Delusion Department** comes a report that RC is planning to start yet another newspaper. We don't have all the details just yet, but we wonder if there's

any truth to the persistent rumor that the rag will be a merger with *Bay Crimes*. Given the history these two SF "publishers" have with local journalists — one for not paying her writers, the other for dementia — perhaps the lustrious journal could be called *Disgruntled and Queer*.

Avon calling

Finally, if this holiday season found you fresh out of gift-giving ideas for the Nancy boy in your life, the good folks at **Apres Noir**, "fine lingerie for men," are ready to help make your future shopping experiences a little easier. The ultimate in mail-order fetishwear, *Apres Noir*, or *After Dark* for those of you who never cracked that French primer, runs the gamut of erotic undergarments. In these pages, one can find such hard-to-find appurtenances as "Au Pair Panties," the "Spanking Panty," and "the Coquette Panty" ("with high-cut sides for extra leg length"). And for those playful couples who like roles with their

Genderfuck, there's a special section entitled "Playtime for Boys," featuring items like the "Cheerleader Panty," a black satin number with cotton gusset, and "The Babydoll," a rose print satin jumper with "matching babydoll knickers."

As thorough-going as this collection is, we wonder if the good people at *Apres Noir* couldn't do a slightly better job promoting their many wonderful wares. Instead of reaching for our checkbook, we found ourselves laughing over the blandishing air of *Martha Stewart*-like domesticity that permeates the catalogue, effectively suppressing whatever incipient transgressive allure it may possess. Indeed, there's something strangely vitiating about a handlist devoted to PVC fetish wear, inflatable latex bras, and bondage and spanking panties that presents its products in settings of ivy-covered balconies, handsomely-appointed living rooms, and on the body of a model whose marmoreal smile, bearing not a trace of irony, is as sexless and cold as it is fixed. ▼

OUT ON VIDEO

Christopher Guest and Parker Posey in *Waiting for Guffman*.

Posey squared

by Will Shank

Looking for an antidote to the annual anti-Christmas, the post-holiday blues? Why not impress friends by hosting a Parker Posey Film Festival in the comfort of your own living room? Just in the nick of time come two recent video releases from the Queen of Independent Cinema.

The Daytrippers, written and directed by Greg Mottola

Posey joins an ensemble cast of talented players who cram themselves into a family station wagon for a claustrophobic journey to Manhattan. Close-knit settings between family members give rise to situations and emotions we can all relate to, and the comedy and empathy that result from this situation add up to an extraordinary feature-film debut for writer/director Greg Mottola.

Hope Davis plays a young Long Island housewife who suspects that her husband (Stanley Tucci) is cheating on her. She drags her parents (Mom is played by Anne Meara), sister (Posey), and Posey's pretentious writer-boyfriend (Liev Schreiber) along on an unlikely ride to find out who is cheating on whom. A gay

plot device adds yet another dimension to this insightful and very funny film.

Waiting for Guffman, written and directed by Christopher Guest

Christopher Guest stars in his own film as Corky St. Clair, one of the most memorable queens ever to grace the screen. Guest's closeted, small-town Missouri theater director is an hysterical creation, and the twisted screenplay by Guest (with Eugene Levy) is brilliant. Posey avoids her usual brittle urbanite in the understated role of Libby Mae, an untalented local Dairy Queen employee who lands a role in Corky's ill-fated show. As the local troupe of actors sing and act their little hearts out for a Broadway producer who never comes, their "Red, White, and Blaine" takes its place with "Springtime for Hitler" in the archives of the most memorable plays-within-a-movie ever written. ▼

DQ to unveil high-powered web browser at fundraiser

Digital Queers will host "Browser Bash," DQ's sixth-annual blow-out and fundraiser, on January 10, 1998 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (701 Mission Street).

This year's event will witness the launch of Cruiser 6.0, an innovative web browser that will revolutionize the way people access the Internet and the World Wide Web. A demonstration of the world's most advanced web browser will take place during the festivities, which will also feature

comic entertainment, dancing, online games, on-the-spot massage, and a chance to network with the most scintillating digerati and netizens ever assembled in one place.

Tickets for "Browser Bash" are available in advance at the DQ website, www.dq.org, for \$40 and at the door for \$50. Admission price includes food and drink throughout the evening, plus entertainment and a silent auction. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., and the party goes till midnight. ▼

BOOKS

It's about me

by Jay Johnson

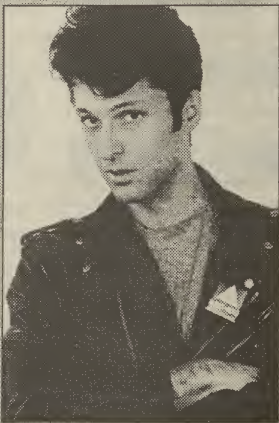
Shirts & Skin by Tim Miller; Alyson publications, \$14.95

In Tim Miller's *Shirts & Skin*, the author offers what he admits is a somewhat embroidered autobiography. I cannot imagine what might be left if the embroidery were torn out. Miller appears to seek neither apologia nor historical perspective in these pages, preferring instead to air a lot of linen that some folks might deem dirty.

Miller, of course, was one of the infamous NEA Four who was partially responsible for that hubbub back in 1989 about decadence and anti-Americanism in the arts. Just as I could find nothing decadent or anti-American about a plastic icon in a container of urine, I can find nothing offensive about this book. I hasten to add that I can find nothing particularly artistic about it either.

Miller grew up in Whittier, California, which the author suggests is a pretty noxious place. After a brief period at Cal State Fullerton, he spent a night with The Moonies in Booneville and then fled to New York City, where he joined ACT UP, became a performance artist, lost many friends to AIDS, and investigated various amative couplings before deciding that three is the loveliest number. He is also, one may gather, a jack-leg carpenter.

Most of the book details the author's love affairs, some of which were abusive (he was once attacked by a loyal dog while throttling its owner), some of which were drug-inspired ("we did a large but unreasonable amount of cocaine"), while others were purely impulsive (he pursued sex almost immediately after losing a portion of his pinkie in an electric planer). The latter event is one of the most carefully described and evocative sequences in the book, and may in fact be the only thing about *Shirts & Skin* that I found interesting. Like the vast warren that is Southern California, there is still much of Miller that is affectless. As I read the book, it reminded me of those breathless, seemingly unedited articles in *Movieline* magazine—it's light, flippant, and entertaining, but not imperative reading. ▼



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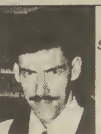
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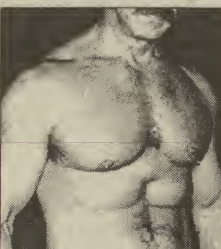
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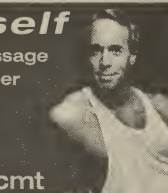


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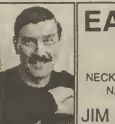
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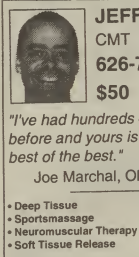


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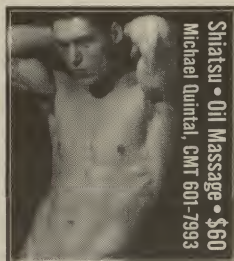
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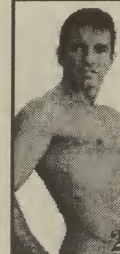
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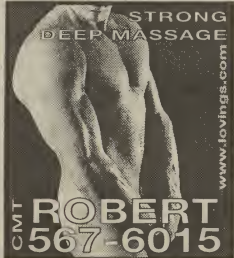
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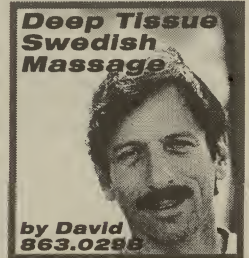
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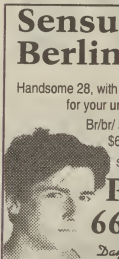
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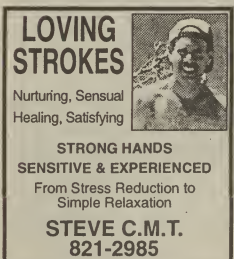
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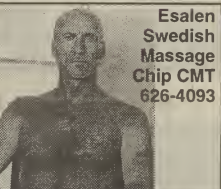
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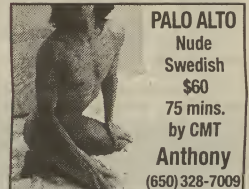
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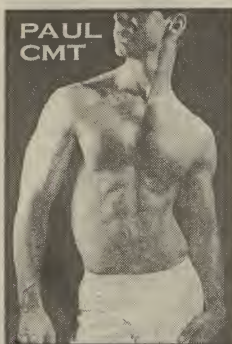
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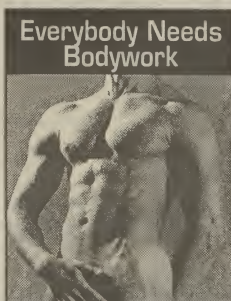
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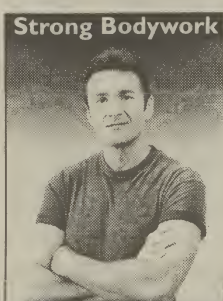
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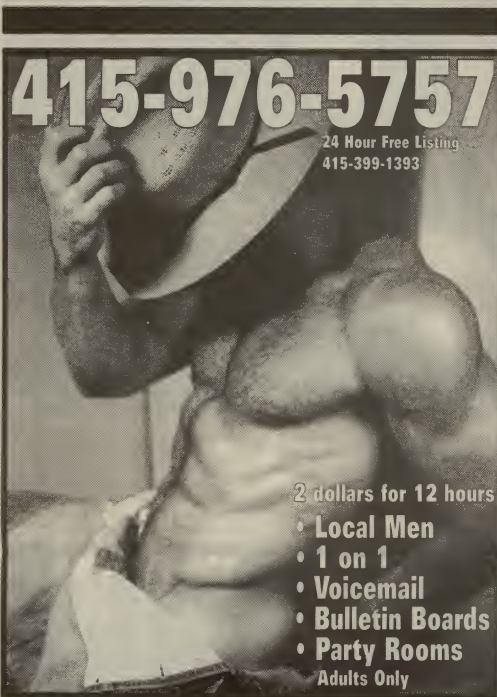
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10" uncut
Cuban/Italian
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Clean cut 6'3" 185# blnd/blu
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Passionate, strong & aggressive
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6' 190# on beefy tight body.
Handsome, handsome, handsome
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9X6 UNCUT

Hot Spanish boy/top
6'2", 175#, 25yrs
Page Fernando 280-4020

Find me under your tree for
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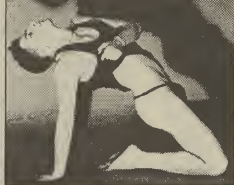
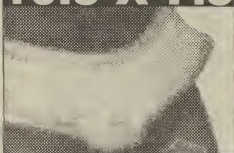
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220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.

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Blond
26 YO
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6'3,220#FIREMAN

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21yo, 5'6", 140, Green Eyes,
Dark Blonde, Stocky,
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Masculine, Friendly personality.
Available Eve & Weekends
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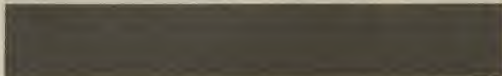
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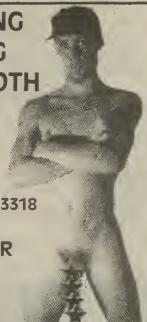
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and Los Angeles
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SMOOTH
SEXY**



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HUNTER

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hot
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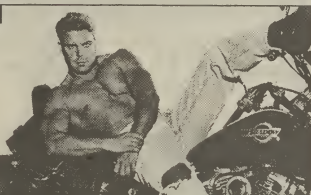
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6'2" 205lb 28y.o.
48"C 17"A 32"W
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HANDSOME
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6'
175#

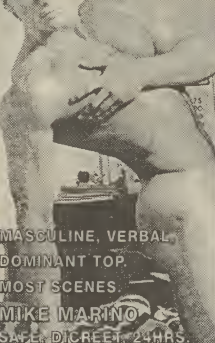
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KURT

201-7189

Mature men and
Hotel calls welcome

ITALIAN STALLION

6'4", 227LBS.
8" Cut-n-Thick



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27yo, 5'7", 140, Tom 412-7261
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WASP, good looks, ripped body
Expensive. Steve 615-2409

FEET/SIZE 12"

Good lkg 38yo top. 6'1", 190 lbs.
Scott 415-790-0902, In/Out Calls

10 1/2 INCHES 10 1/2 INCHES

I'm a 6'2", 220 lb, muscular jock.
22yo with a thick forever hard tool of
pleasure ready 4-U. 24hrs. Stop play-
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Ready to service you long and deep.

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I also kick back for service.
What's your fantasy? Andy 708-5388

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fined chest & legs, 8" thick uncut
Beautiful yummy ass! 150 lbs. Black
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Rockhard globes of Butt! Hungry•
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Musculine, Handsome, Hair, Hung
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Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Bld/Blu
Clean-cut Muscle Hunk
In/Out-\$100(415) 863-8932

front
shaved
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Discover who you really are.
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Extremely masculine,
good looking clean-cut
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9X6 24-HOURS

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clean cut, call Chad at 241-9381

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A unique massage experience by tall
Texas charmer 6'6", 195", lean, toned
Attractive Attentive Affectionate.
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Very handsome&masculine dark hair
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22yrs hung 8" and thick!
Versatile & fun Jeremy 210-0047

Offbeat 42yo CMT, Playful, Masculine,
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**Very Versatile
Beautiful
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dominate & very sexy. Pgr 207-6786

Clean-cut Grad Student,
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Very hard inches for your pleasure.
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I'm great with beginners thru advanced.
Give it up to Nikos 885-1471 Nob Hill

Size11 Feet-hot\$40/60Bpr834-8170

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Dominant top, 38yo, 6'1", 195#, 7"
uncut, flat top, mustache, blue eyes, looks
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Have playspace equipment and toys Scott
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5'11"/Hairy 47c/16a/31w/185/hung/
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All Buttplay scenes

PERSONALS

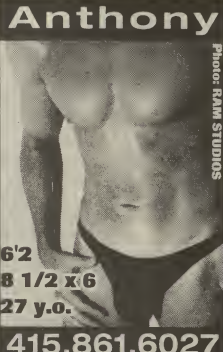
MODELS/ESCORTS

KEVIN



PGR•790•1545

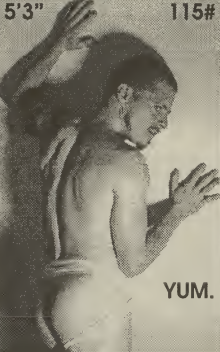
Anthony



6'2"
8 1/2 x 6
27 y.o.

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Serving all bay areas


5'3" 115#



YUM.

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BUILD, 8" UNCUT

9 x 6



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COLT MODEL



Tom Howard
Bodybuilder
9x6 Versatile

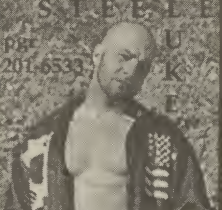
415-254-6828 PGR

ITALIAN



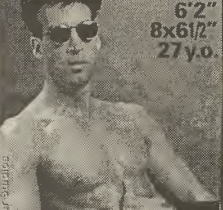
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STEELE
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see line ad
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27 y.o.



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☐ Personal Check
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☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

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Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

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